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Hart Brings Home the Bacon

Coast province concludes tax deal with Ottawa Treasury

By CHAS. L. SHAW

B RITISH COLUMBIA'S white-haired premier, John Hart, seemed vastly pleased with himself when he returned to the west coast from his recent friendly bout with Ottawa's financial chiefs. And he had good reason to be happy because he had in his pocket a document which outlined a new agreement whereby British Columbia will receive some \$100,000,000 during the next five years. In return for Ottawa's concessions, the province will relinquish income and corporation taxes and succession duties.

As readers of this column are fully aware, Mr. Hart didn't go down to Ottawa simply to make trouble. He was convinced in his own mind that as a result of the tremendous strides in population and industrial revenue made by British Columbia during the past four or five years the west coast province was entitled to something better than that previously accorded, if Ottawa were to continue to do all the tax collecting for the province.

Now that he knows just where he stands in the matter of availability of funds, Mr. Hart will be able to go ahead and map out his program for expansion in several directions. One of the matters that comes high on the "to do" list is highway improvement, and no one will quarrel with the provincial government if it pours more money than ever before into the public works department for road construction.

British Columbians probably won't have to wait long for a complete outline of the legislative program for 1947 because there seems to be an eagerness to call the House together earlier than usual this year. The session may be a long one, too, because the agenda is already formidable even without the expected eleventh-hour announcements of policy.

A PART from the various sequels to the new financial setup between Victoria and Ottawa, the government intends to re-open the liquor law to the extent of legalizing cocktail bars along the lines approved by Ontario's Drew administration; to enact important new forestry legislation designed to perpetuate the timber industry, and to improve the present laws for dealing with labor disputes. The last proposal, it is hoped, will eliminate a recurrence of the prolonged disharmony and walkouts that crippled some of the province's major industries for months in 1946.

There is apt to be considerable controversy over the labor amendments. The present government has shown a pronounced pro-labor tendency in much of its legislative program and in many instances seems to have leaned over backward to placate the unions. In fact, the government's spokesmen have frequently declared that British Columbia has the most advanced labor and social legislation in all Canada.

However, this was apparently not enough to insure industrial peace. It was not enough to prevent suspension of all forest industry production for two months and to paralyze lode gold and copper mining for an even longer period. Some of the provincial leaders are evidently beginning to wonder whether they did not go too far in their concessions to labor. One member of the cabinet recently asserted publicly that the government had made a mistake in passing a 44-hour week law for universal application in industry; he said that road workers, for instance, had drifted away from important B.C. construction projects and gone to the prairies where they worked longer hours

but had the advantage of the additional hours' pay.

I T should not be surprising, however, if the farmers were to be a little more generously treated in forthcoming legislation. Only a few days ago a member of the faculty of agriculture at the University of British Columbia declared that the farmer's hired man often makes more money than the farmer. He figured it this way: That the average income of the general farm in the Fraser Valley, excluding dairy farms, is \$780 a year, or \$65 a month. The latter sum happens to be \$10 less than the standard wages of the farm laborer.

There is a growing recognition of the importance of agriculture in British Columbia's economy. Total cash returns from farm production last year were estimated at more than \$112,000,000, which is the highest on record and more than double the figure for the best pre-war year. But while many producers enjoyed a prosperous season, it's obvious that farming will not make much of an appeal to youth or anyone else if its average returns are not better than those of the Fraser Valley farm.

The fruit growers had reason to be cheerful about the marketing setup, however, as leaders of the industry returned to the coast from Ottawa recently with word that the federal government plans to provide the necessary regulations for continuance of orderly controlled marketing in the fruit industry when the emergency wartime measures expire at the end of March.

More honors were brought to British Columbia when the awards were made at the International Livestock Exhibition in Chicago, and the province is proud of the first "wheat queen of North America," who happens to be Mrs. Amy Kelsey, who produced the best wheat on display at her little ten-acre farm at Erickson in the Kootenay country. Mrs. Kelsey has been growing seed grain as a hobby for several years, and this is by no means the first time she has taken a prize at one of the big shows. She modestly gives a lot of the credit for her success to two former "wheat kings" from Canada—Dr. Seager Wheeler of Rosthern, Sask., who won prizes at Chicago five times, and W. G. Gibson, a fellow British Columbian who was champion wheat exhibitor in 1937.

M ANY people in Canada east of the Rockies must have been puzzled when they read that Vancouver's Gerry McGeer, already a member of the Canadian Senate, was running in the Vancouver mayoralty campaign. That was because they didn't know Gerry very well. It would be hard to find anyone in public life from coast to coast with more drive and energy than the red-faced Irishman from Vancouver who started out as a blacksmith's helper and turned to law when he discovered that a few scratches of the pen by a barrister cost him the equivalent of a day's wages back in the days when he was representing a labor union in some minor dispute.

McGeer was elected to the B.C. legislature when still in his 20's. Then he was elected to the House of Commons and became mayor of Vancouver back in the depression period of 1935. Although a member of the party in office, he frequently crossed swords with the cabinet and eventually was given a seat in the Senate presumably in the hope that he would be quieter there.

With McGeer back in the saddle in the province's biggest city, and John Hart happy over his mission to Ottawa, 1947 should be a year of momentous happenings in B.C.



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WHEAT OR MEAT?

By H. S. FRY

CANADA wants more of all these crops and products this year: Cheddar cheese 31 per cent more, hogs 19 per cent, barley 19 per cent, eggs 10 per cent, creamery butter 9 per cent, oats 9 per cent, all milk combined 6 per cent, evaporated whole milk 4 per cent. Canada is asking for the same amount as last year of these: Hay, clover and alfalfa, cattle, calves, condensed whole milk, whole and skimmilk powders, poultry. Canada wants less of these: Wheat 7 per cent, rye 6 per cent, summerfallow 1 per cent; and expects 10 per cent fewer sheep and lambs to be marketed.

Who says we need some products and not others? And what kind of peace are we going to have in a hungry world if we produce 7 per cent less wheat and 19 per cent more barley? That looks like a billion dollar question, so let's see if there is a reasonable answer to it.

Nations have known for a couple of hundred years that when they go to war, soldiers cannot fight one day and go fishing the next. They must be organized and must be in it for the duration. In 1939, we found ourselves up against a war of terrifying magnitude. Food, or the lack of it, might win or lose the war, so we had to plan food production. Before the war was over we had a Combined Food Board at Washington which said, in the first place, that the Allied countries needed so much of this, that and the other crop or farm product; and surplus-producing countries, such as Canada, set out to produce what was needed. After it was produced, the Combined Food Board allocated the total Allied supplies and said that so much of this would go there and so much of that must go here. In order to carry out these plans, too, we had rationing on some foods at home, just as the troops and sailors and airmen were rationed on the fighting front. The trick worked and the war was won.

Then came the peace. It wasn't long before we realized that we were living in quite a different kind of world. Before we could secure real peace, we had to fight another war against inflation and hunger, against unemployment and chaotic world markets. We continued price controls and rations and rationing, therefore, with the idea of easing them off gradually. Meanwhile, too, Canada continued to play her full part at international conferences of various kinds, while at home we have been trying to get our house in order.

It was pretty difficult, a year ago, when the annual Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Production Conference was held in Ottawa, to tell just how Canadian farmers might best help the situation and themselves. The result was not too satisfactory. Providence helped to cover up some of our mistakes with bumper crops, but we were quite seriously short of hogs, dairy products, feed crops and oil seed crops.

THE 1946 conference was different. It was thought in advance that it should be an important conference, and it was. It was better handled and more harmonious. The conclusions reached were generally regarded as sound and constructive. They were

Conclusions of the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference

It is agreed:

That an effort should be made to increase production of livestock and dairy products and to maintain present production of poultry and eggs;

That if livestock production is to be increased and wheat made available for human consumption, barley acreage must be increased;

That if storage of oats is to be maintained against a possible short crop to assure feeding present livestock population through our long winters, oat acreage should be increased;

That if barley and oat acreage is to be increased it can be most effectively brought about in Western Canada by reducing wheat acreage;

That if that is the goal, it can only be brought about, particularly in barley, by making the return from barley comparable with the return per acre from wheat.

THE Conference is of the opinion:

That the return on barley could be assured, and hence the increased acreage desired, by making an acreage payment to farmers producing barley in the western provinces;

That if an acreage payment is made in the western provinces, the 15 cent premium should be removed in the west and the payment of freight to the eastern provinces and British Columbia continued;

That with this increase in the production of barley provided for, provision should be made to encourage greater production of hogs and milk, and particularly milk utilized for the production of butter and cheese.

It was contended that to encourage livestock products, particularly dairy products, an increase in oil cake supply is necessary. If this is to be accomplished there must be an increase in flax seed production in the west. It is the opinion of the Conference this can only be brought about by increasing the return for flax.

Discussion at the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Production Conference revolved around this central problem



Hon. J. G. Gardiner sums up the conclusions of the conference.

also, generally speaking, unanimous.

A word here, perhaps, about how these production conferences operate. For two or three months in advance, committees in Ottawa, within the Dominion Department of Agriculture prepare the facts about acreage, yield, domestic consumption, feed supply, exports and market requirements so far as these are known. When prepared and suitably commented on by the committees, the data is sent to the departments of agriculture of the nine provinces for study by the provincial ministers of agriculture and their advisors. When the conference meets, as it did this year on December 2, 3 and 4 in Ottawa, every province is or should be ready to present its point of view on every group of products. These include grain and forage crops, seeds, livestock and meat, dairy products, poultry and eggs, oil seed crops, fruit and vegetables, tobacco and honey.

These groups of products are considered separately, but sometimes a decision on one group must await a decision on another. At the recent conference, a broad background of the picture was first painted in, initially by the Minister of Agriculture,

Hon. James G. Gardiner, and then by the Deputy Minister, Dr. G. S. H. Barton, who dealt with the relationship of international bodies to world food planning, and later by the Chairman, A. M. Shaw (Director of the Federal Marketing Service and Chairman of the Agricultural Supplies Board), who dealt specifically with the food contracts with Britain and other countries, and by J. G. Taggart, Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Support Board. These background talks were both important and helpful, and when the Chairman told the Conference that the trend of discussions about contracts between buyer and seller was definitely in the direction of longer term contracts, and this without undue pressure from either side, this writer was reminded of those lines from Tennyson's *Morte D'Arthur*, where the dying King Arthur says:

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new
And God fulfills himself in many ways
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

THERE is no doubt that much uncertainty remains in the agricultural outlook, but there is less of it than a year ago. At first glance, the picture is confusing. Like all other puzzles, however, a careful sorting out of the pieces generally makes it possible to get a clearer view than at first seemed possible. UNRRA, for example, will soon go out of business, and UNRRA has helped Canada to develop a large business in canned meat, which has taken off the market many thousands of animals of poorer quality which always have had a depressing effect on prices. Food is still scarce in Europe. There is a small world surplus in wheat this year above minimum require-

Turn to page 15



Chairman A. M. Shaw straightens out a point under discussion at the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference.



PART II

BETWEEN the mysterious groan and the face I had seen in the darkness, I was reduced to a condition of utter helplessness. And when Jerry leaped to his feet I caught his hand and pleaded with him not to leave me.

Swamp Hollow had so got on my nerves that reason and common sense no longer swayed my words or actions. I dreaded being left alone, and yet I wanted Jerry to investigate the next room from which the groan had come.

Jerry was nearly as excited as I, but perhaps in a different way. I was convinced that there was something supernatural about the face and the groan, and the condition of my nerves prevented me from casting the feeling off; but Jerry was thinking differently.

"There's someone in the dining room," he whispered. "Wait here!"

"No! No!" I cried hysterically. "It's Uncle Abner! He's not dead or—"

I could not finish, for phrased in words it seemed ridiculous. Spirits and ghosts are not accepted seriously today by any except weak-minded creatures or by the investigating committees of psychical and spiritualistic bodies, and I credited myself with belonging to neither.

"Nonsense," he cried, using the same expression for the third or fourth time to contradict me. "Don't be silly, Nancy. I'll leave the door open."

"But if I should see the face again," I began, shuddering and pointing to the back of the room. "If I do I shall die of fright."

He glanced judiciously around and finally said: "If you see it, call me. I'll come back instantly."

Before I could reply, he had disengaged his hand. I jumped to my feet to follow, but my legs suddenly lost their power of locomotion. I sank back on the couch with a little moan.

I heard Jerry's cat-like steps and saw the shadow of his form creeping toward the door leading into the death room. Like one in a horrible dream I saw and heard the door open.

The silence that followed was harder to endure than a babel of strange sounds, and as if to intensify it there came a lull in the wind outside and the blinds ceased to rattle.

His light flashed on a mammoth oil painting.

All over the house a strange hush followed. The branches of the trees no longer swayed or creaked, and the scraping of a bare limb that had beat a steady tattoo against the side of the house stopped miraculously.

It was uncanny, yet it would have been perfectly understandable if I'd stopped to reason out the cause; but in a state of fear one forgets everything except what the imagination conjures up. Even the dropping of a pin would have shocked me; the slamming of a door or window would have caused me to faint. And I'm not the fainting kind—far from it!

After what seemed an eternity of time, I heard Jerry moving around in the next room. Round and round his steps seemed to circulate—now near the door, then past it and back again. What could he be doing?

IN the effort to find an answer to this question I forgot some of my fear, and I listened intently to every footfall. Once or twice I was tempted to call him, but I restrained myself. I caught myself counting his steps—one, two, three, four, five . . .

Jerry and his girl companion come on a queer hide-out in the old hermit's lonely cabin in this second instalment of a thrilling mystery yarn

I counted up to fifty, and then stopped. The last round had brought him near the door again, and this time they did not retreat as before in the endless circle.

He was returning, and a great weight was lifted from my mind when I caught the shadow of his form silhouetted against the opposite wall by the flicker of the fire.

"Jerry!" I called faintly.

"Coming, Nancy!" he replied.

He did not come straight toward me, but first made a circuit of the room, stopping at each window to lift the shade and peer out. I watched him apprehensively.

Then he came and dropped on his stool and stared blankly into the fire.

"What was it, Jerry?" I asked fearfully.

He looked at me for a moment and then shook his head.

"It was Uncle Abner?" I added enquiringly.

"I don't know. I can't say," he muttered. "But it's queer—very queer."

"What's queer?" I demanded sharply, pulling at his sleeve. "Answer me, Jerry! Don't keep me waiting."

"I—I wish you hadn't come to this beastly place!" he blurted out half angrily. "It's bewitched or something."

"Haunted!" I exclaimed, supplying the right word for him.

"Haunted!" he sneered. "There's no such thing as a haunted house. You can't make me believe . . ."

Again that tantalizing break in a sentence.

"What did you find?" I asked almost fiercely. "Tell me! I must know."

"What did I find?" he asked, laughing in a way that grated on my nerves. "I didn't find anything, Nancy! The room was empty!"

"Empty! You mean no one was in it except Uncle Abner?"

"No!" he replied, almost brutally. "I mean that he wasn't there either. He's gone! There's nothing left but the pool of blood in which he lay."

THAT was the supreme test of my nerves, and I should have cried out or fainted. But, strangely, I did neither. I was cold and shaky, but my mind was clear. I was surprised at the calmness of my own voice.

"If he's not there, then where is he?"

"How should I know?" came the irritable reply. "Got up and walked away, or flew away! Hanged if I don't believe he had two lives! He was dead before. Now he's . . ."

by
**GEORGE
ETHELBERT
WALSH**

"No!" he added, raising his voice to a shout. "I won't believe anything so silly! He was dead, and dead he'll stay. Come on, Nancy, we've lost too much time now! We'll search for the Dallas Heart, and get out of here before morning! Let Uncle's body get up and crawl away. It shan't hold us back. Come!"

"Where to?" I gasped, shrinking back.

"Where to? Everywhere! Upstairs—downstairs—into the garret and into the cellar! Wherever there's a likely hiding place for the Dallas Heart we'll look. Come!"

Anything was preferable to sitting there, listening to the wind and the creaking of floors and walls so common in an old house on a stormy night.

I got up quickly. Any kind of action would help to keep my mind from brooding on the supernatural and the uncanny.

Turn to page 33

SCOUTING AROUND

With Guide Notebook and Camera

A Dairy Farm in the Fraser Valley

FEW things afford me the same satisfaction as the sight of a well-managed, well-built, well-cared-for farm. I liken it to a shady tree, healthy and strong, growing in the fertile soil. When I see such a farm, I cannot help feeling that if anything were to happen to it, the community and the agriculture of the country generally would be the loser.

I paid a very short, almost a fleeting visit to such a farm in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia last summer. It was Meadowcrest Farm, owned by H. Bose and Sons, Surrey Centre. I met Mr. Bose, Sr., in Cloverdale, where I was visiting the Surrey Co-operative Association, in company with Gordon Langdon, Poultry Commissioner for British Columbia. Later, after lunch, Mr. Bose invited us to visit his place a short distance away. We had very little time, but went, nevertheless, and I am glad we did.

Turning into the farm, we immediately visited the dairy barn, and I had something of the sensation of a mild shock. I took no notes at the farm, and as I remember there were three large silos connected to the barn by a silo house, with cement floor and ample space for working comfortably. The stable was immaculate, and housed 41 milking Holsteins of the 75-head herd. As we went through the large building with its ample mows, its feed room and saw the variety of concentrates for balancing the dairy rations, the feeling I had was one of completeness, and the thought came to me that I had never seen a dairy barn on an individual family farm quite so impressive for its business-like efficiency. Outside, a short distance away, were the cattle, and they were sleek and well fed, as I felt beforehand they must be.

We had so little time that the only field we really saw was the 55-acre field of seed potatoes, from which Mr. Bose expected to harvest between 11 and 15 tons per acre, or about 800 tons in all, to be sold as certified seed, which in the spring of 1946 had sold from \$60 to \$85 per ton.

The expense of growing good seed potatoes is, however, heavy. Dusting and spraying must be continued throughout the season, along with roguing for the control of mosaic and leaf-roll, the principal diseases. In September, the tops must be killed with chemicals to aid maturity. Also, fertilizers are liberally applied, while tillage costs are heavy as they are for any row crop. This year the cost of applying 1,100 pounds per acre of 0-12-20 fertilizer was \$1,600, while the bill for seed was \$2,000.

A good market for seed, especially for white-fleshed potatoes such as White Rose exists in California and Oregon. This is a second early variety. Netted Gem is also widely grown in the valley, and Green Mountain, especially on the high land.

The large potatoes, unsuitable for seed, find a ready market among the fish and chip shops down along Water Street, Vancouver, where beer and fish-and-chip places are numerous. Some of these places purchase from a ton to a ton and a half of potatoes at a time.

Mr. Bose, Sr., has been farming in British Columbia since 1891, having come to Canada from Whitechapel, London, five minutes walk from the Tower of London, in 1890.

Already he had made, as a boy, three trips around the world. The day after landing in New Westminster, he had a job helping to build a dam, and has built or helped to build many others since. At that time New Westminster was about as important as Vancouver. Steamers ran up the river as far as Yale. Oxen were in general use, to be replaced later by horses and these in turn by power machinery until now there is no horse on Meadowcrest Farm.

During his 55 years of B.C. farming, Mr. Bose has been Reeve of his municipality, Secretary of the Farmers' Institute for 46 years, Police Magistrate, Secretary of the Association of B.C. Municipalities and, as already intimated, is now President of the

Surrey Co-operative Association, in itself a remarkable institution about which I hope to write later.

Meadowcrest Farm consists of 330 acres, of which 30 are uncleared, 155 in hay and pasture, 60 in mixed grains and 55 in seed potatoes. I do not know what this farm would sell for today in the open market. The best land in the Fraser Valley today is selling for a wide range of prices, depending on size of tract and location, but I suspect that Meadowcrest Farm might bring somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300 per acre.

Rammed-earth Buildings, Legumes and Roses

OPTIMISM, foresight and energy are the sterling qualities of the Gaetz family, living at Craigmyle, Alberta. Mr. Gaetz moved his family to the present farm sight in 1940. It was a sandy, windblown piece of land with a tumble-down shack for a house.

These factors did not dampen the ardor with which they attacked the problem of becoming established. The house was made liveable and then plans were drawn for the general lay-out of the farmstead. Land was prepared and trees planted along the driveway leading up to the house, and to protect the garden. In spite of two very dry years the trees have made satisfactory growth.

Mrs. Gaetz saw to it that flowers were not neglected. When the writer visited the farm in early July he found rose bushes becoming established, with beds of gladioli and numerous other perennials and annuals making good growth.

Other farm buildings were one of their immediate problems. A chicken house was a first consideration and as money was scarce, thoughts turned to Pisa building. A cement foundation was laid for a building 33 x 16 feet, inside measurement. The earth was pounded into forms placed above the foundation and the chicken house began to grow. After the walls were built sufficiently high, a gable roof with long eaves was constructed. The walls were stuccoed on the inside and out. This chicken house is modern in every respect. It has housed as high as 200 laying hens which represented a major source of the farm income.

A dairy stable was the second earth building to be constructed. Here Mr. Gaetz made the mistake of using heavier clay subsoil of high alkali content. This material proved to be unsatisfactory for building and the walls have started to crumble. Nevertheless, this unfinished building with temporary roof has housed the small herd for the past two years.

Soil improvement was not overlooked. All the available manure was spread on some of the poorer patches. Small fields of alfalfa, brome and crested wheat grass have already been established and it is Mr. Gaetz's intention to get the whole farm down to legumes and grasses as soon as possible.

Education is a problem for the family, Maxine and Lorne. Most of their education, to date, has been by correspondence from the Provincial Department of Education. Their farm education is not being neglected either, as they are both members of the Junior Grain Club and Lorne has his heart set on a trip to the Olds School of Agriculture, which is one of the prizes for highest standing in the Wheat Club.

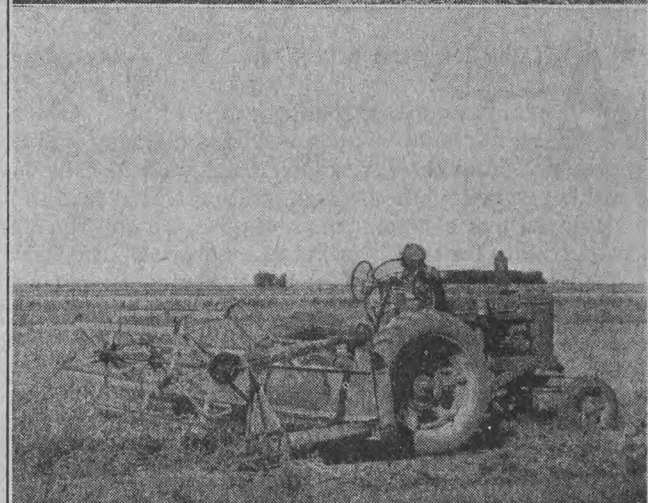
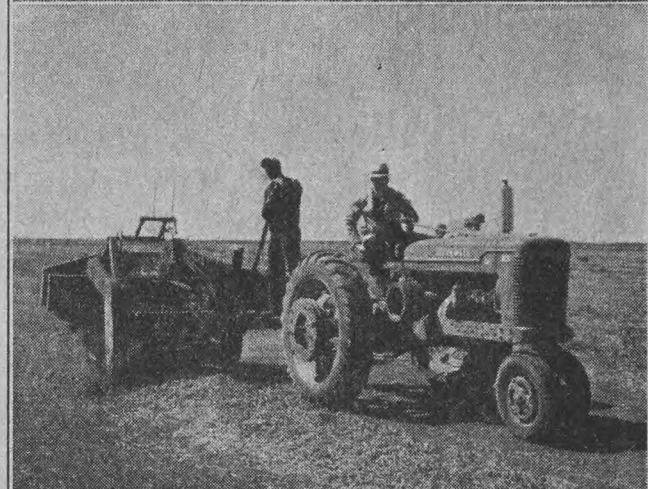
The Gaetz family are regular listeners to Monday night's Farm Radio Forum. They speak very highly of this program, but regret the fact that distance from the neighbors' prevents them from participating very often in active listening groups.

The enthusiasm exhibited by this family is the spirit that built the West and will dictate our success in the future. This pioneer work in rammed-earth building can be copied to advantage by farmers in many parts of the West.—JAMES R. MCFALL.

Machinery in Abundance Here

TALK about mechanization! I saw, this summer, on the Broder Canning Company farm in the Lethbridge-Coaldale district of Alberta, more mechanization on 800 acres of land than I have ever seen before, and certainly more than I ever thought any

Turn to page 19



Top: Second year growth of alfalfa on the Gaetz farm, Craigmyle, Alta. Top centre: Experimenting with a hay baler on pea hay on the Broder Canning Co. farm in Alberta. Centre: Pea harvesting with a special reel and windrow harvester. Bottom centre: Loading pea vine for the viner. Bottom: the rammed-earth poultry house on the Gaetz farm.



Illustrated by ROBERT RECK.

DOWN THE DESERT WIND

ALL day long the desert wind had blown relentlessly. Now twilight was descending on the plains. Soon, too soon, thought Anne St. George, night would be upon them; and Roddy had not returned from the gruesome errand on which he had ridden away long hours ago. Rustlers! They had to be dealt with, of course. Anne had not lived on the range eight years for nothing; but she always wished, when such affairs occurred, that her husband needn't take part in them.

From a small, white-curtained window she looked out into the growing dusk, not nervous exactly—Anne was too accustomed to loneliness for that—but apprehensive. The Indians who had once made such hours a time of terror, were no longer frequent and unwelcome callers; and cattle thieves kept at a safe distance. It was the wind she feared. Wind and prairie fire. Even now, as her eyes noted a great pile of tumbleweed blown into a corner where the new ell joined the two front rooms, the woman shuddered, thinking how quickly it would kindle at a single spark.

"Mother!" A child's voice broke the stillness. "Please, what does c-o-u-r-a-g-e-o-u-s spell?"

Anne turned. So quiet had the children been that she had almost forgotten them. A small, fair girl of seven sat close to a window, book in hand; and a boy of five was on the floor, making a tower of wooden blocks; odd bits of lumber left after the ell was built.

That ell meant something intangible to Anne St. George—something she found difficult to express in words, even to Roddy. It meant for one thing that her family no longer ate in a small, crowded kitchen. They had their meals on a table in the sitting room, "like real, civilized folks!" she declared, so joyously that her English husband had caught her in an unexpected hug, and said, his deep voice husky: "Poor dear! Have you really minded as much as that, Anne?"

Anne had assured him that she hadn't minded at all; but that she didn't want her children to grow up barbarians.

"No danger, with a fastidious mother like yourself, lady!" returned Roddy, who, though few of their frontier neighbors guessed it (or if they had, would have thought the fact important!), was, in his native England, a high-born aristocrat. "Sometimes I wonder how you endured the dirt and discomfort of a journey by ox team across these plains!"

"I was only fourteen, darling," his wife reminded him. "One doesn't mind dirt and discomfort at fourteen. Besides, like all the rest in our caravan, I had the gold fever!" Then, reverting to the subject of the new ell: "And it's not the extra room and added comfort that make me so happy, Roddy, but—Well, the

thought that in spite of Indians, and rustlers, and that dreadful plague of grasshoppers, you're really prospering, and that in my own small way, perhaps, I've been a help."

"In no small way, my dear," Roddy St. George assured her gravely.

THIS scene was in Anne's mind when she turned from the window, thinking it was dear of Roddy to tell her that he appreciated all she had done. Some of the ranchers' wives worked day in, day out, with never a word to show that their men understood and loved them better for it . . .

"Mother—didn't you hear me? What does c-o-u—" Anne smiled.

"I was lost in daydreams, Nancy! It spells courageous. That's a long word, but you're so good at spelling I'm sure you'll remember. Do you know just what it means, I wonder?"

"It means being brave, doesn't it?"

Her mother nodded.

"Like the time daddy broke the wild horse, mum-mie?" asked the little boy, raising dark eyes from his absorbing task.

"Well, not exactly," replied Anne. "Breaking that

A story of a woman's courage, when the prairie fire swept down upon her home

by

CHRISTINE WHITING PARMENTER

bronc took a sort of courage of course; but it was fun, too, for daddy. To be courageous, sonny, one must do something that isn't fun at all." She paused a moment, seeking for simple words. "Something hard, whether it's fun or not, because it's right."

The little boy forgot his blocks. He had risen, and stood looking up at his mother, with wide serious brown eyes.

"Was Texas Jim cour-c'rageous, mother, the time he rode ahead of the prairie fire to help us fight it?"

Anne shivered a little, though the room was warm.

"Very courageous. He knew the fire might overtake him—it travels so fast!—and that his own shack was sure to burn if he wasn't there to try to save it. You see, son, Texas Jim lost everything he had—to help a neighbor. It takes real courage to do a thing like that."

"When I grow up," the boy asserted, "I'm going to be c'rageous too." Then, going to the window, he cried excitedly, "Come quick, mother! Come quick and see the sunset!"

Anne laughed, started to say: "The sun doesn't set in the east, dearie," when, a clutch of fear at her heart, the words died on her lips. She was beside the child, looking out at a red horizon—a glow that meant only one thing to the dwellers on those isolated plains. And wind from the east!

In the clear, high air of Colorado, horizons are far things. Anne knew, even while terror took possession of her, that the glow her boy had thought a sunset, came from a fire miles away. But, as she had said a moment since, "It travels so fast!" Even now the color looked brighter, nearer . . .

FIRE! How ruthless it was! Even in the first days of her marriage the bands of hostile Indians that roamed the plains had seemed less menacing to Anne St. George than did that far red glow she looked on now. How many times when wind was blowing had she risen at dead of night to gaze out anxiously over the range, going from one window to another—not closing her eyes when she returned to bed, still listening . . .

Once, after a thoughtful silence, her husband had said: "Look here, Anne. If ever when I'm away you see a fire—no matter how far off it looks—take the children and ride for your lives. Don't try to save anything but yourselves, for every moment counts when these winds blow. Remember?"

As if she could forget! Yet Anne had never spoken of her terror at the thought of fire. "Why should I?" she asked herself with courage born of pioneering. "What with the Indians stealing everything they can lay hands on, and rustlers driving off our steers, poor Roddy has enough to worry him without knowing how my heart stands still whenever I'm left alone on a wild day."

And indeed, as the babies grew older, their mother had little time for fears. There were no schools in the cow country, so, unless her children were to grow up in ignorance, many an over-worked farm woman must add teaching to her many duties. Besides their lessons Anne taught her son and daughter to love beauty; dawn on the prairie—the first bright splash of painter's brush in spring-time—a mariposa lily, pale and fragile—wind rippling the long grasses—a golden sunset . . .

"See, mother! How red the sky is getting over there! Isn't it beautiful?"

Anne shuddered, yet pulled herself together valiantly. None would have guessed that in those few short moments she had made what was to her mother heart, a terrible decision. Roddy's words had come back: "Ride for your lives. Every moment counts when these winds blow." But Anne was remembering a poor, mean shack some distance nearer that glowing sky, where, only two days before, she had helped at the birth of a first baby which had left the young mother spent and useless—and she was all alone, her man away on the same grim errand that claimed Roddy . . .

Someone must help, Anne knew, and there was only herself. Thank God that Nancy could ride like

Turn to page 27

PRICE STABILIZATION

THE cost-of-living index is lower in Canada today than almost any other country in the world. Thanks to a price and wage control policy commenced at a relatively early stage of the war, well administered, and loyally supported by the public, the rise in commodity prices has been relatively small. But controls are never popular in democratic countries. No sooner had the enemy countries thrown in the sponge than business, wherever there was any organized business left in the world, became restless.

In Britain, there were no illusions about de-control. Living among ruins, British business men knew that cease fire did not mean an overnight return to normal living. There was a wide acceptance of the fact that some controls would remain for years, and legislation was quickly enacted to ensure it. The Americans on the other hand, wedded to the doctrine of unrestricted private enterprise at any cost, sabotaged controls and finally abandoned all but a few remnants, with the result that American commodity prices soared faster in the late summer of 1946 than they did over the course of the whole war. By November, American price increases over prewar levels were double those experienced in Canada.

This country has followed a middle course in de-control. Many important restrictions have been relaxed or discontinued altogether. The air is full of rumors of further de-control. One of the most active political games in eastern Canada turns upon the rate at which the federal government will scrap remaining controls. In any case the Canadian control program rests on war-time legislation which comes to an end on March 31, 1947. Unless Mr. King and his ministers can gain the consent of the House for a continuance of such controls as are considered necessary, Canada will return on that day to free enterprise, or every group for itself, and devil take those who cannot pass on their increased costs to the public.

On November 6 at Calgary, H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, pointedly drew attention to the grave import to farmers of future Canadian price control policy. About the same time, Donald Gordon, chairman of the War-time Prices and Trade Board, broadcast a series of five talks outlining the main facts in the case, and the choice open to Canadians. Mr. Hannam's speech was given before a group of farmers and did not attract much outside notice. It was probably accepted by the general

public as a narrow expression of group interest. The Gordon broadcasts, however, were tunes from a different orchestra. They were authoritative and detailed statements from a master of the subject brought to the fireside of every Canadian who cared to listen. And there were many who cared a great deal.

MR. Gordon expressly disavowed any intention of making out a case either for or against the continuance of controls. He was concerned to portray for Canadians the probable effects of the alternative policies of gradual relaxation of controls, or a chilly plunge into the wild current of postwar price instability. He was careful to reiterate that the choice rested with public opinion, and if public opinion in Canada turns out to be in favor of unregulated trading, unregulated trading it shall have.

The logic of the case is heavily weighted on the side of planned de-control. But as the adherents of the opposite view have not been able to assail Mr. Gordon's logic they have vented their anger by per-

The irresistible demand which swept American price control into the scrap heap has not yet developed in Canada

sonal attacks on him, the vehemence of which reveals the poverty of their argument. The abuse heaped upon the chairman of the Prices and Trade Board ranges from barber shop sniping at "bureaucrats trying to hang on to a government job" to the heat lightning displayed by John T. Hackett, Conservative member for Stanstead, across the editorial page of the Montreal Gazette of November 7.

"Mr. Gordon is a paid servant of the government," wrote Mr. Hackett. "His duty is to administer the law, not to make it; to carry out the policy of the government, not to discuss or vindicate it. . . . In a recent and regrettable instance, members of the judiciary have been hailed to the aid of the government in the solution of political, labor and economic controversies entirely beyond the scope of their judicial mandate. Now the civil service is to become the powder monkey of the administration and take on political propaganda as a new duty of office." All of which is very entertaining, but it does not dispose of Mr. Gordon's reasoning.

There are two observations which should preface any consideration of national price control policy. It is only human nature for people to want to get rid of the controls which restrict their profits, and at the same time to desire the maintenance of controls which keep their costs from rising. Labor demands

required. It is freely acknowledged that sooner or later prices must be allowed to seek their own supply and demand levels. New inventions and designs, new production techniques, changing consumer preferences, and many other economic factors enter into price making. To interfere with these for any length of time is like holding the hands of the clock, justifiable only when other instruments recording human progress have temporarily stopped. The question is not whether to discard controls, but when to do so with the least dislocation.

DURING the course of the war control, as it relates to food for Canadians, achieved the following ends. It maintained a price high enough to encourage maximum production. At the same time, by the payment of subsidies on certain commodities it prevented an undue rise in the price to the consumer. By bulk purchasing abroad it assured a continuance of the best possible supply of tropical products such as tea, coffee, citrus fruits and vegetable oils. By rationing it assured a fair distribution of all commodities across Canada.

The advocates of early de-control declare that traders are being unfairly penalized by continued government intervention. They would like to have it taken for granted that business, freed from restrictions, would serve the consumer equally well.

Let us attempt to visualize what early de-control would mean in the realm of agricultural prices.

A severely rationed Britain asked Canada for large shipments of cheese at a remunerative guaranteed

price. In order to attain the necessary volume, Canada has diverted milk from creameries to cheese factories by the imposition of a butter ration, which cuts the demand for the latter product. High cheese prices mean relatively high prices for manufacturing milk. High milk prices mean high butter prices, which the government offsets by a subsidy of 8½ cents per pound on butter. What happens to this highly artificial set-up if controls are scrapped?

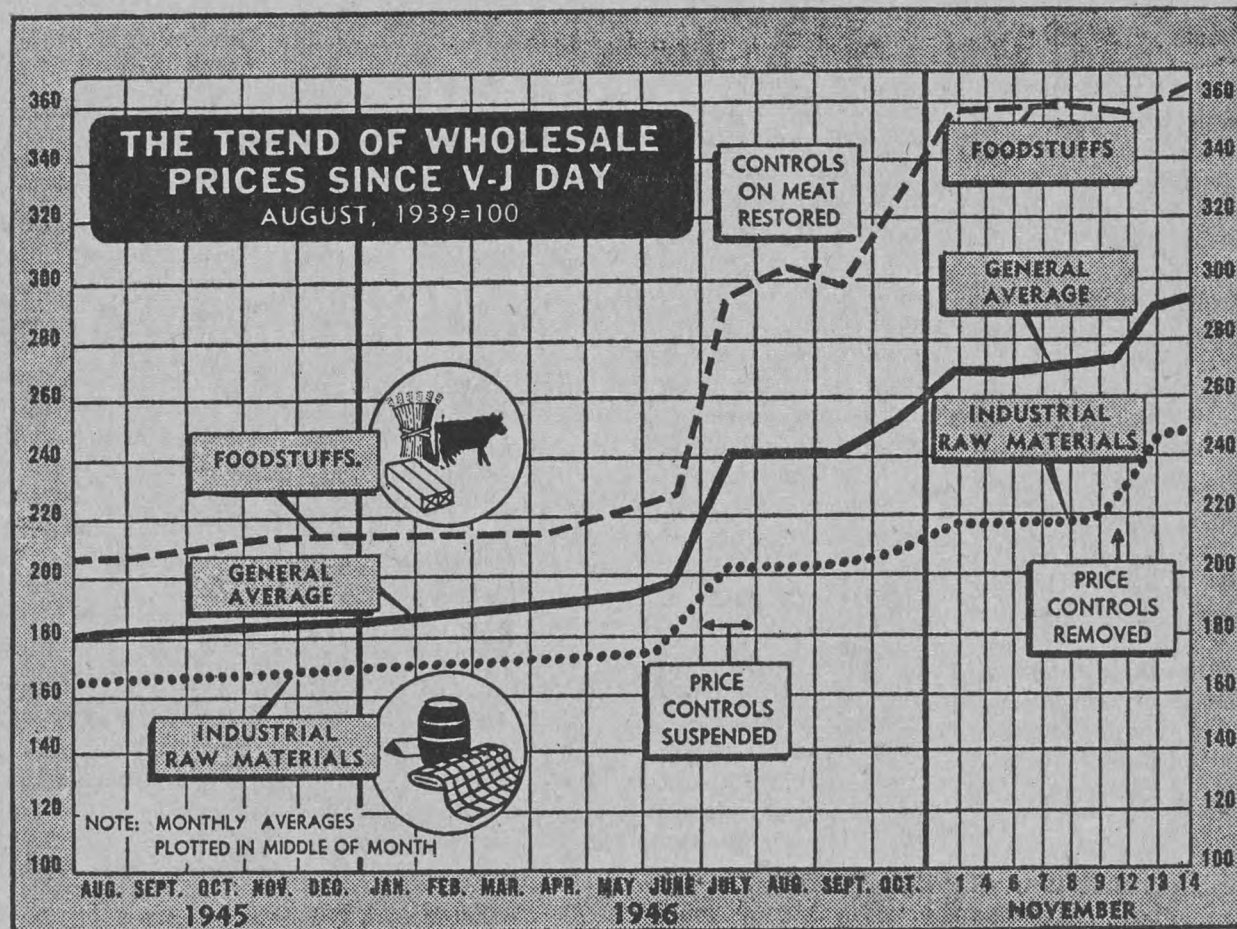
The first effect would be that, the government having withdrawn its subsidy, the consumer would have to pay an additional 8½ cents per pound for his butter. But with the end of rationing, consumers who could afford it would try to satisfy their wants by buying more than they are now allowed. According to the law of supply and demand there would be then a further price rise.

The second effect would be the diversion

of milk, now going into cheese, into butter at the increased price. This would lead directly to a default on our cheese contract with Great Britain. No person with the remotest knowledge of the grim struggle for food on the other side of the Atlantic will contemplate a policy which diminishes by one iota the food which this country can supply to fill European wants in 1947, especially high fat and protein foods like cheese. Higher profits for a small class of traders pales in insignificance before this imperative moral consideration.

Wheat. The picture is complex because the consumer is being spoon fed from two directions. The government subsidizes wheat going into domestic bread and other bakery products on a basis equivalent to about 15 to 25 per cent on bread prices. But the wheat farmer makes a handsome gift to all other Canadians because he realizes only \$1.25 a bushel for domestically consumed wheat which might otherwise be sold at world market prices considerably higher.

Turn to page 50



Illustrating the effect of de-control on American price levels.

From The New York Times.

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Toward Freedom From Fear

The session of the United Nations General Assembly closed in an atmosphere of high hope for the future. The debates had degenerated at times into acrimonious recriminations, as they have at all the international meetings since the nations set themselves to the task of putting the war-torn world in order. But the session did not end on that note, which is the important thing. As the closing meetings drew near feelings improved and the weary delegates headed homeward with some assurance that the path to accord between East and West had been found. Considerable progress had been made in solving some of the major problems facing the post-war world. The decisions reached are too numerous and involved to be fully examined here but chief among them was the long step taken toward the goal of disarmament, which means Freedom from Fear.

For the first time Russia accepted two basic principles for atomic control and disarmament. The first was the principle that an international agency or agencies must handle control and inspection with no veto power to be exercised by any nation. The second one was that there can be no guarantee against the illegal production of atomic weapons unless the peaceful development of atomic energy is also under firm international control. To the Security Council, on which the Big Five have permanent seats, was handed over the task of drafting the treaties providing for the outlawing of atomic bombs and all other weapons of mass destruction, and for a world-wide reduction of armies and armaments.

The peace of the world is not yet, of course, fully assured. At the meetings of the Security Council, where the treaties will be drafted, any of the Big Five can exercise its veto power. What has been accomplished is that the initial step, and a long one, has been taken in the right direction. The nations, without exception, have some appreciation of what atomic warfare would mean. All want to avoid it. There is only one way to avoid it and that is to proceed along the road on which they have started. It will be a long and stony road and plenty of time will be required to evolve a workable world plan for the control of armaments and the settlement of disputes without recourse to atomic bombs and other, if now minor, weapons of mass destruction.

Settling Labor Disputes

John L. Lewis pushed his aggressive tactics too far and had to make a strategic retreat. It would be a mistake, however, to assume that the pugnacious leader of 400,000 soft coal miners has been put out of circulation. His prestige has suffered but he is an experienced generalissimo and may mount another offensive next spring. In the meantime President Truman is searching for a formula "that will create a clear concept of labor's responsibility to the people and the government." The new Republican Congress will also put labor legislation high on its priority list.

Steps are being taken in Canada to draft a labor code, national in scope, and to set up the machinery to administer it. The wartime agreements between the provinces and the Dominion on labor matters expire this year and provincial ministers have been in conference with Minister of Labor Mitchell. An attempt is being made to have uniform labor legislation adopted by the

provinces and this will fit in with a proposed federal enactment. A permanent National Labor Relations Board will be set up to handle labor disputes in inter-provincial industries. The provinces will each have machinery to deal with disputes of purely provincial status. How the decisions of the boards will be enforced is the \$64 question. So far labor unions in Canada are not legal entities that can be sued and labor leaders resist any effort to make them such. Their argument is that they would not stand equal in the courts against huge and wealthy corporations. However, some of the unions have become powerful bodies, commanding huge sums of money and they cannot expect much longer to enjoy their present immunity. What the labor departments have in mind therefore, is uniform labor standards across Canada, with boards set up to settle disputes by conciliation or arbitration, and in case of failure to have the courts endowed with power to impose penalties for non-compliance by either unions or management. A huge strike is not simply a struggle between an industry and its workers. It spreads privation and distress widely among the people. Both labor and management will have to become reconciled to the idea of submission to peaceful processes for the settlement of their differences.

The Permanent Cure

Down in Cape Breton, in far eastern Nova Scotia, there is unemployment. Thirty men are available for every vacancy. Many veterans, including a large number who went directly from school to war, are jobless and hopeless. A move is on, sponsored by the federal department of labor, to shift 2,500 or 3,000 men to central Canada, where jobs await them in factories and in the mines and forests. Maritimers are not enamored of the prospect of hundreds of their finest young men being moved away in a mass migration. Their feelings are easily understood and deserve every sympathy.

The loss of young men by the thousand is no new phenomenon in the Maritimes. The drainage is chiefly to the United States and has been going on for generations. Scarcely a daily paper is issued in the provinces down by the sea without some reference to a prominent Bostonian or New Yorker who first saw the light in or near a Maritime hamlet. And for each who has achieved such newsworthy prominence, thousands have gone. No other territory in the world, except Scotland, has survived such a hemorrhage and retained its vigor. The tide of emigration rises and falls and the time seems to be ripening for another rush outward. A short boat trip from Halifax or Saint John lands a young man in Boston or New York and a job.

To head off such a movement something can be said for the proposal to transfer the idle men to central Canada. But only because the situation has assumed the aspect of an emergency.

As a long-term problem, long-term corrective measures are needed. It calls for long-range planning, by the government and by business, to build up Maritime industry so that it will absorb young Maritimers and dry up the stream of migration at its source. The whole trend of Canadian industrial development has been a steady concentration in central Canada at the expense of outlying parts. Past governments have been apathetic about the application of corrective measures. Delay can no longer be permitted. No section of the country has suffered as much, in consequence, as have the Maritime provinces. This gobbling up of local industries by corporations should be checked. That is one remedial measure that could be adopted by government and business. A complementary policy would be to foster the decentralization of industry. Business itself is discovering that centralization now has been overdone. Only by such means can such situations as that which now confronts Cape Breton be permanently corrected.

Not Rights But Special Privileges

Premier Drew of Ontario has served notice that as long as he is head of the government not one jot or tittle of the province's rights will be surrendered to Ottawa. Premier Duplessis of Quebec recently fought—and won—a provincial by-election in which he again raised the cry of the invasion by the federal government of that province's autonomy. Both were referring to the taxation proposals to which several of the provinces have agreed and which all of them except Ontario and Quebec are likely to sign. Have they, or will they, in signing the agreements, give up any of their rights? Has Premier Garson or Premier Douglas, for example, forfeited any of Manitoba's or Saskatchewan's autonomy by agreeing to a proposition under which one income tax instead of two will be collected in those provinces and by which the provincial budgets can be kept in balance?

No, Colonel Drew and Mr. Duplessis are not thinking of provincial rights or provincial autonomy. That is, unless they think that time has hallowed, as a right, the special privilege their provinces have long enjoyed of taxing for purely provincial purposes wealth produced in other provinces and drained into theirs. They should know, and if they don't know they should learn, that time does not hallow a special privilege. Perhaps they will take a different attitude when individuals, corporations and estates within the central provinces have two taxes to pay instead of one.

The National Overhead

The winds blowing from Ottawa are heavy laden with stories of over-stuffed offices, loafing, ostracism by the loafers of government employees who turn in a good day's work and even of absenteeism, as when girls are out shopping when they should be at their desks. What meas-



Will the replacements measure up?

ure of truth there is in these stories is difficult to assess. Ottawa rumors are not noted for accuracy. In *The Financial Post*, however, Blair Fraser sheds some revealing light on the civil service scene.

Before the war, he says, 65,000 persons were on the federal civil service payroll. As at, or near, December 1 the figure stood between 140,000 and 150,000, which was a drop of only 5,000 or 10,000 from the wartime peak. Apparently the government is showing concern and plans to wield the broadaxe to such effect that the number will be hewn down to 100,000 by the end of the present fiscal year. That should ease the housing shortage in Ottawa by March 31. On the other hand the experts, whoever they are, claim that the best that can be done will be to lop off 15,000 or so, say 10 per cent.

The administrative setup is vastly different from what it was in those far off days of 1939. A department of veterans' affairs was established in 1944 and it has a big job on its hands. The monthly distribution of baby bonus cheques entails an enormous amount of clerical work. The foreign trade service has been greatly expanded at the instance of Canadian business men, who tell us that governments shouldn't meddle with business. A comparison of the number of food coupons now issued, with the census figures of 1941 shows that there are about three quarters of a million more Canadians now than then—that is if no one is getting more than his share of the coupons. These and many other new factors in the national administration call for an enlarged civil service. There is not the slightest hope, therefore, that the government payroll will be pared down to anything like its pre-war proportions. But the taxpayers will not be satisfied unless it is pared as close to the quick as possible without impairing efficiency. A reduction of only a few thousand after fifteen months of peace calls for a lot of explaining by the ministers and their experts. So also would a further reduction of a mere 15,000. Canada, with a population of only around twelve million coupon users should be able to struggle along with 100,000 civil servants to spread the federal government's beneficent ministrations throughout the nation.

Check the Flight

The stream of migration southward is now twice its prewar volume. In the seventeen months ending with October nearly 30,000 emigrants crossed the line and of these over 24,000 were native-born Canadians. Another 30,000 tried to get across but were denied admittance. The flood included no less than 3,600 scientists, technicians and executives, the very men this country can least afford to lose.

The chief reason for this flight from their homeland was higher pay. One thing that could be done about it would be to set higher standards of remuneration for professional workers in the public service. The spectacle of men with their masters' and doctors' degrees working for less money than an athletic young fellow gets for shovelling coal into a branch line freight locomotive is not very encouraging to an able and ambitious young scientist. Evidently a revision of values is necessary. The fireman was earning money all through the long years when the professional worker was spending money on his education. The Ph.D. naturally thinks that his stipend should reimburse him for the outlay as well as providing him with the means for maintaining a home and raising a family. If he can't get it in Canada no one can blame him for going where he can get it.

Proximity to a rich, powerful and friendly neighbor has many advantages for Canada. But it has one disadvantage. During its history this country has lost more than four million citizens to the United States. Just how serious this has been can be judged by the fact that since confederation the total immigration into Canada has been less than 6,500,000 souls. On balance, two thirds of the immigration has been lost. The government cannot much longer avoid or delay a declaration of its immigration policy.

Under the PEACE TOWER

ALWAYS something new out of Africa, says the old saw. Always something new out of Quebec, I paraphrase. The other day, for a number of reasons, and a number of errands, I took a swing through Quebec.

First stop was at 1429 Crescent Street, Montreal. That address means nothing to you, I am sure. But it is the restaurant of Frank Roncarelli, the Italian Canadian, who has been going bail for Jehovah's Witnesses. For this deed, or series of deeds, Mr. Roncarelli has had his liquor license cancelled. That is Premier Duplessis' way of doing things.

Roncarelli's place, when I was there, was half dead. True, many people had rallied to its support, and they tried to help him keep out of the red by buying his meals. But if you know Montreal, you realize that this is a forlorn gesture. Roncarelli's, and its cousin Chez Ernest, as well as kindred places like Cafe Martin, are all of a kind you never see west of the Quebec border. European in style and cuisine, intimate in character, they are carved out of old houses. Whatever people may do elsewhere, they go to such spots for a drink with their meals. Now the Quebec Liquor Commission License No. 68 has been cancelled. Mr. Roncarelli is going slowly to the poor house. His Quaff Cafe, in the ground floor, he padlocked himself. Half his help he had to let go. Of the half that is left, many he will lose because the tips on food alone are negligible.

Roncarelli told this writer that Duplessis was "grossly misinformed" about him. For one thing, he said, Duplessis believed that because he went bail for Jehovah's Witnesses, he naturally had plenty of money. "Far from my having any money," Roncarelli told me, "I had to borrow \$300 not so long ago to pay for my children's schooling." I gathered that it was just a matter of time till Duplessis closed him up entirely. Yet, on the other hand, later, in Quebec, a cynical reporter asked me: "What do you want to bet that he'll be open again in six months?"

I asked how this could be done. "Twenty grand to the party funds," he wryly answered.

THE next stop was Sorel, a once sleepy town that Jos. Simard and his brothers put on the map. Formerly just a place that marks where the Richelieu enters the St. Lawrence, it now boasts of giant ship-yards, \$50,000,000 industry, and a payroll of more than 5,000. By perspiration and inspiration, Jos. Simard and his brothers have created Sorel as one of the great Canadian arsenals.

In this instance, Sorel was anxious to get into parliament Gerald Cournoyer, personable 34-year-old attorney, and partner of the late Hon. P. J. A. Cardin. As a matter of fact, if you listened to the election speeches, you would discover that the real political boss was the Ghost of Cardin. As I sat in St. Joseph de Sorel Parish Hall, a Sunday afternoon before the elections, I noted that speaker after speaker talked about Cardin, and his great record of 35 years in Ottawa. This went on for perhaps twenty minutes, and then finally, almost apologetically, the candidate himself was mentioned.

During the recent by-election in Portage la Prairie, the complaint was that even a political bell-wether like a cabinet minister could scarcely draw fifty people. Well, I sat on the platform at St. Joseph de Sorel for three and a half hours, and listened with 2,000 people to a veritable Niagara of oratory. Nor did we have the come-on of cabinet talent. Only M.P. was Sarto Fournier, M.P. for Maisonneuve-Rosemont, and all but unknown outside a small corner of Quebec.

Having in mind how dismal are our own English-speaking meetings, I made a survey of this one. I saw little kids of 10 fight to get into the jam-packed hall with 200 standees. Mark that, not to get out, but to get in. They listened with rapt attention, hour after hour. Women followed the discussion with the eagerness of paid ward-healers. The men smudged themselves, cured themselves like hams with the Tabac Canadien, and all but asphyxiated themselves, yet the 2,000 listeners held on till the end. How do you account for that, I asked? I am not going to go into all that now. But I would say this: most of our political speakers are notoriously bad; theirs are conspicuously good. I think they give better entertainment.

I liked particularly Edouard Simard's crack about the greyhound race. You have heard of dog tracks, he said. You know that around the track there runs a stuffed rabbit. Not a real rabbit, but a stuffed rabbit. So the Union des Electeurs ask you to chase something you are never going to get, for the greyhounds never catch up with the rabbit. But if they did catch it—what would they find? A stuffed rabbit. The Union des Electeurs, in offering you money every month, are asking you to chase something you would never get.

Again, Mr. Simard recalled that an ass is a hard creature to do anything with, and that to get it to go anywhere, you tie a bundle of carrots in front of it. But the silly ass never does get the carrots. Nor will you electors ever get anything if you follow the Union des Electeurs, warned Monsieur Edouard.

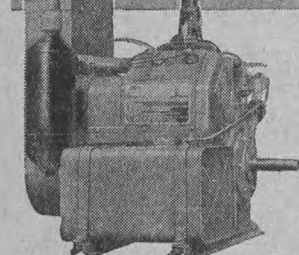
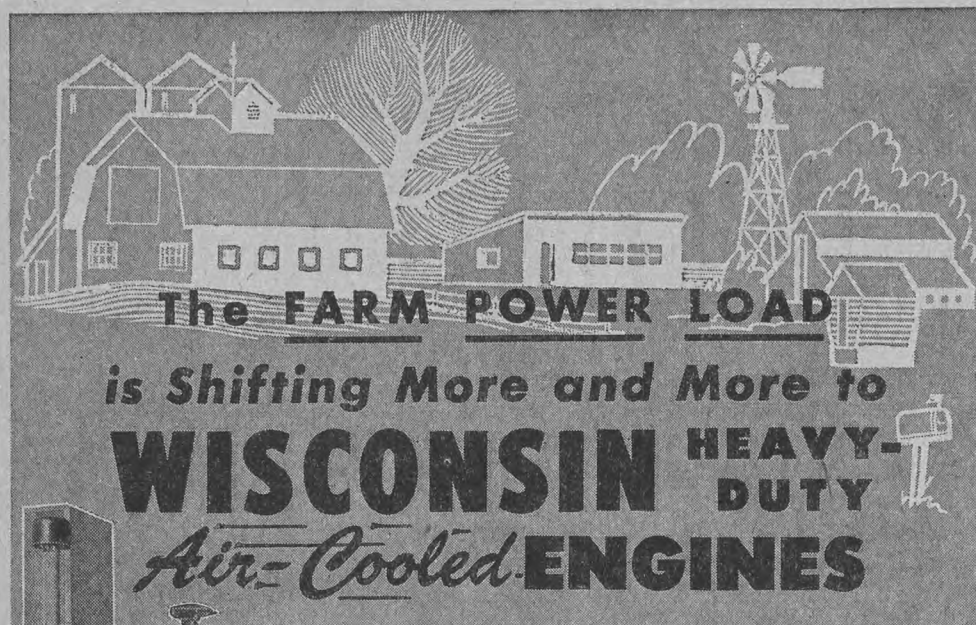
In the evening, there was plenty of noise and just as much smoke, when the Union des Electeurs answered the afternoon cracks of the Liberals. But while the Quebec version of Social Credit got a big hand at the time, it was like champagne. You recall that this beverage opens with a bang, that it bubbles and effervesces spectacularly, but next day it is flat. So, it would seem, was the political campaign of the Union des Electeurs.

Your Country Guide correspondent got himself into a funny fix at the Union meeting. The "Electeurs" not without reason, felt the Liberals would start trouble. I went into the meeting, not knowing this, and asked the Chief of Police where the Union organizer was. Instead of that, he professed not to know what I was doing, and followed me around, speaking sharply, his leaded crop at my back. Mind you, all this went on in French. The "Chef de Police" just couldn't get it through his head that I wanted to talk politics with one of the organizers. Finally a Monsieur Major took me out of the hall, across the street, and said, with a sheepish grin: "You know, our chief took you for one of the Liberal thugs. He thought you were

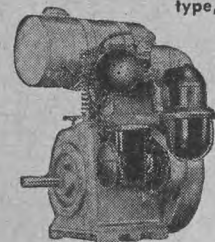
Turn to page 41



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NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

Clovers That Make Unbred Ewes Milk

AUSTRALIAN sheep have been discovered to be affected by a new disease, which has appeared in Western Australia and parts of Victoria and South Australia. The disease is not well understood, but appears to be associated with certain clovers, which appear to contain substances in the nature of oestrogen, a female hormone. Whatever the substances are, they upset the ductless glands of animals and affect the breeding organs of the ewes so much that some ewes which have not been bred, produce milk when grazed on these clovers.

Some Australian sheepmen are hopeful that when the disease has been thoroughly studied scientifically, there may be a big demand for the product of the clovers responsible for it, and possibly also for ewes which have been grazed on it. The possibility is that these clovers may afford a natural way of producing a valuable drug.

The Cheese Carriers of Holland

ALKMAAR is a town in North Holland province with a centuries-old tradition recently reborn. For the first time since 1940, it is reported that the cheese carriers of that town donned the old uniform of their guild, the origin of which is not known; and, as they have done for centuries past, the chimes of the carillon in the tower of the old weighing house played, while every half hour a mechanical knight galloped around the tower, and a mechanical trumpeter sounded his bugle note.

The cheese carriers move across the market place in a shuffling, dance-like gait which makes it possible for them to carry loads weighing from 350 to 400 pounds. They wear white clothes and peculiar large straw hats. They carry round cheeses on a kind of stretcher and a kind of suspender which helps them to carry the load. They consume what is called the "cheese carriers' beer," supplied free in large jugs. It is said that without this beer they cannot do their work.

Whale Meat For Food

THE official whaling season begins December 8, and according to recent newspaper accounts, Norway, Britain, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand are the chief whaling countries of the world, doing an annual trade estimated at about \$200 million.

This year, it is said, about 130 whale-catching boats will serve 14 floating whale factories, and this year a special effort is to be made to secure whale meat for human consumption.

This special effort is due to the world shortage of meat and of fats and oils. Not long ago there arrived at an English port a 10-ton assignment of quick-frozen whale meat. Since the whale is a mammal, its flesh is as much meat as beef, though most of us are inclined to think of it as fish. Study of the food value of whale meat may lead to the discovery that aside from its palatability, it may have more vitamins than beef.

The huge size of whales and the large numbers caught in normal years have led to calculations that as much meat from whales has been discarded by the factory ships as the total tonnage of meat exported annually from Argentina to Great Britain. Should whale meat find a permanent place on the tables of the world, it is possible that it might prove an important competitor of meat from cattle and other domesticated animals.

Sask. Officials Move Up

IN consequence of the retirement of Dr. F. H. Auld, who for 30 years has filled with distinction the post of

Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Saskatchewan, several changes in the top ranking officials of the Department have been made necessary.

As from January 1, Hon. I. C. Nollet, Minister of Agriculture, has appointed Maurice E. Hartnett, Director, Agricultural Representatives Branch since January, 1945, to succeed Dr. Auld as Deputy Minister. Mr. Hartnett came to the Department with a long and valuable background of experience in farming, in government service and in commerce. He came at a time when the Agricultural Representative Service in the Province was badly in need of reorganization, and it is a tribute to his ability and farsightedness, and to the support this work has received from the provincial government, that this reorganization, while not entirely completed, has proceeded as rapidly as circumstances and the scarcity of qualified personnel would permit.

Mr. Hartnett will be succeeded as Director of the Agricultural Representative Service by Professor E. E. Brockelbank, who, since 1922, has been associated with the Extension Department of the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, where he has been closely associated with the general livestock and extension work of the department and has had special charge of boys' and girls' livestock clubs.

Professor Brockelbank was born in Gray County, Ontario, in 1894, and in 1910 began farming at Rockhaven, Saskatchewan. In 1922, he completed the degree course in agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan, and later



E. E. BROCKELBANK.

(1930), secured his Master's degree at the University of Minnesota, having obtained leave of absence for this purpose from his work at the University of Saskatchewan.

During the 24 years since 1922, Professor Brockelbank has acquired a wide and broad knowledge of Saskatchewan agriculture, and has become widely and favorably known, not only for his genial personality, but for his deep and abiding interest in farm folk and their problems. He is himself a farmer in a small way, since he operates a small acreage in the northern part of the Province in which alfalfa seed production is the main interest.

The best wishes of The Country Guide go with Dr. Auld as he retires after such a long period of service; to Mr. Hartnett as he enters upon his enlarged duties and responsibilities; and to Professor Brockelbank as he begins occupancy of one of the key positions in the development of a stabilized agriculture in Canada's greatest grain growing province.

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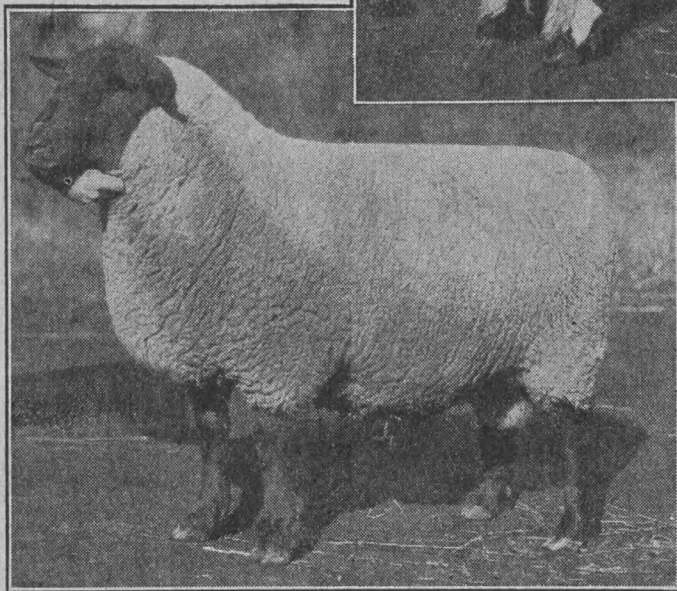


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LIVE STOCK



[Strohmeyer photos.]

Above: Golightly 79, Champion Hampshire ram for H. Altonby, Forest Lawn, Alta., and (left) Rockville 1502, Champion Suffolk ram for Victor Watson, Airdrie, Alta., at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto.

What Do We Know About Meat?

MEAT is an important food for human beings in most countries throughout the world. Though it is not as readily and quickly produced as cereals in times of emergency such as the present—when millions of people need much more food than they are getting and need it immediately—it has an important and necessary place in the human diet, by all standards except those of the strict vegetarian. It is also true that meat cannot be produced in the same quantities, per acre of land cultivated, as the cereal grains, but its production and consumption are inextricably bound up with our modern civilization, which depends upon the close co-ordination of land utilization with the physical well-being of all the people.

The value of meat as food, aside altogether from its palatability, rests on two primary factors, one of which has to do with human nutrition and the other with land utilization. As compared with cereal grains and most plant products, meat provides a more balanced food, with a higher proportion of proteins than cereal grains, which are relatively starchy and at the same time bulky. The use of meat as food also makes it possible for human beings to utilize very large acreages of cheap land unsuitable for the growing of crops and primarily useful only for the production of grass.

Of meat itself we know too little. It was pointed out some time ago by Professor J. W. G. MacEwan of the University of Saskatchewan, now dean of agriculture, University of Manitoba, that there is probably no food product which is so little understood by Canadian housewives. Research in the field of meats has been very limited, indeed, in Canada. "We know," said Professor MacEwan, "that the Canadian trade calls for a medium-weight market animal, young enough to be reasonably tender, old enough to be acceptable in flavor and fat enough to ensure a tasty product. But why? Up to a certain point there is a definite relationship between fatness and palatability, but beyond that point palatability decreases. Feed utilization also decreases with increasing fatness."

Fat, said Professor MacEwan, is deposited in the adipose tissue, at first as

small globules and then as larger ones, which distend the cell walls. Fat deposited between the cells and between the muscles is considered to be essential to quality because it improves flavor, aroma and keeping qualities. The marbling of beef, which is considered a mark of superiority, can make a less tender cut from a well-fattened animal possess better eating qualities than a select cut from a carcass not so well finished. Marbled beef is a sign that the animal was at least reasonably well finished, because fat is first deposited around the kidney and visceral organs, then under the skin and through the muscles, so that a warmed-up animal, or an animal with a slight outer covering of fat, will not make best quality beef because the fattening process has not been carried far enough.

The fatter an animal, however, the greater the loss in cooking and, according to work done in the United States, tenderness improves slightly with increased fatness, but not as much as most people expect. Work done in Iowa indicates that stall-fed animals yield less-tender meat than those which are given a moderate amount of exercise. Meat from young animals is generally more tender than from older cattle, owing to the increased amount of connective tissue found in older animals. Beef, however, from two-year-old and yearling steers is more desirable than beef from calves and is darker in color, as well as showing a better distribution of fat throughout the lean. It was also found that beef from older animals will ripen more satisfactorily; and roasts from such steers are more palatable.

Heifers, according to Professor MacEwan, fatten more quickly than steers, but, given the same degree of finish, he could find nothing in experimental records to indicate that one sex possesses an advantage in palatability over the other. "In bacon pigs," he said, "it has been observed that gilts cut more back muscle than barrows: steers have been observed to cut more round and chuck than heifers; and heifers have less bone. In lambs there seems to be no significant cutting difference between wethers and ewes, but between



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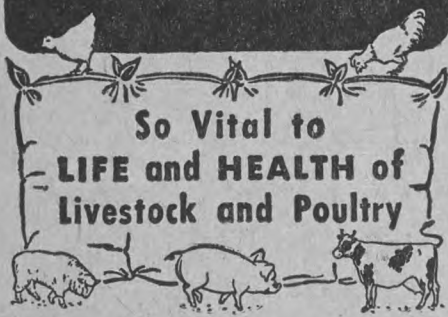
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wethers and rams there is a big difference, with the former having plumper legs, a higher percentage of loin and rib, lower percentage of shoulder and neck and distinctly better palatability."

Yellow fat is not favored in the trade, but so far, it appears, there has never been any good reason offered for the prejudice against it. Work done in Illinois seems to indicate that when grass-fed beef is inferior in edibility, the reason is likely to be insufficient finish rather than too much color. Because it has less fat, grass-fed beef commonly shrinks more in the cooler, but cattle full-fed grain on pasture dress as high and shrink as little as dry-fed stock. Work done in Kansas seems to indicate that a lime deficiency in the ration of beef animals exerted no significant effect on quality and palatability, while keeping quality and the loss from shrinkage was higher. "Phosphorus deficiencies have been prevalent in western Canadian cattle country," said Professor MacEwan, "and doubtless these, along with other nutritional circumstances, have had their effect on the consumer's meat."

Work done in the United States compared beef from beef and Dual-Purpose Shorthorns, Holsteins and Jerseys. Beef Shorthorns led in dressing percentage, carcass grades, fatness and meat texture, but Holsteins led in the flavor of the lean meat and Jerseys led in tenderness. Holsteins were last in dressing percentage, carcass grades, fatness and texture of meat as well as tenderness, but the Jerseys yielded the least-flavored meat. Similar work with six breeds of sheep, however, which included the Southdown, Shropshire, Hampshire, Cheviot, Carrievale, and Rambouillet, indicated no significant differences between the breeds.

Some work done a few years ago at the University of Saskatchewan indicated that when beef is canned, highly fattened meat was neither necessary nor desirable; that the toughest meat can be made tender by processing; that the canned product from the toughest and cheapest meat is best in flavor; that the canned product from high grade meat has little superiority; and that low grade cuts formed the best jelly.

We Eat More Dairy Products

IN 1945, we in Canada consumed 28.76 pounds of butter per capita, 4.86 pounds of cheese, 14.15 pounds of concentrated whole milk products, and 4.04 pounds of concentrated milk products, in addition to 462.41 pounds of fluid milk and cream. This makes a total of 1,242.32 pounds of dairy products per capita which were utilized in Canada in terms of milk in 1945.

Some changes, however, have taken place in the proportion of various kinds of dairy products used by each person. For example, in 1940 we ate 31.4 pounds of butter each, and by 1942 had increased the amount to 33.12 pounds, which was reduced under butter rationing to 28.76 pounds in 1945.

Also, it is interesting to note that the bulk of this decrease occurred in dairy or farm made butter. In 1940, we ate 7.39 pounds per year of dairy butter, and 23.83 pounds of creamery butter. By 1945, we were eating 24.14 pounds of creamery butter, and only 4.4 pounds of dairy butter.

We ate more cheese in 1945 than for some time, consuming a total of 58,850,902 pounds, or about 16 million pounds more than in 1940, when our average consumption was only 3.76 pounds each. Practically all of the cheese consumed in Canada is ordinary cheddar cheese, of the kind commonly made in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

The most remarkable increases in consumption have occurred in the use of concentrated whole milk products,

and in the consumption of fluid milk and cream. In 1940, we consumed an average of 9.84 pounds each of concentrated whole milk products, but by 1945 had increased this amount to 14.15 pounds. Our fluid milk and cream consumption increased from 416.13 pounds each to 462.1 pounds. To bring about this increase meant that dairy farmers had to supply to the whole milk and cream market, 1.4 billion more pounds of milk and cream in 1945 than in 1940.

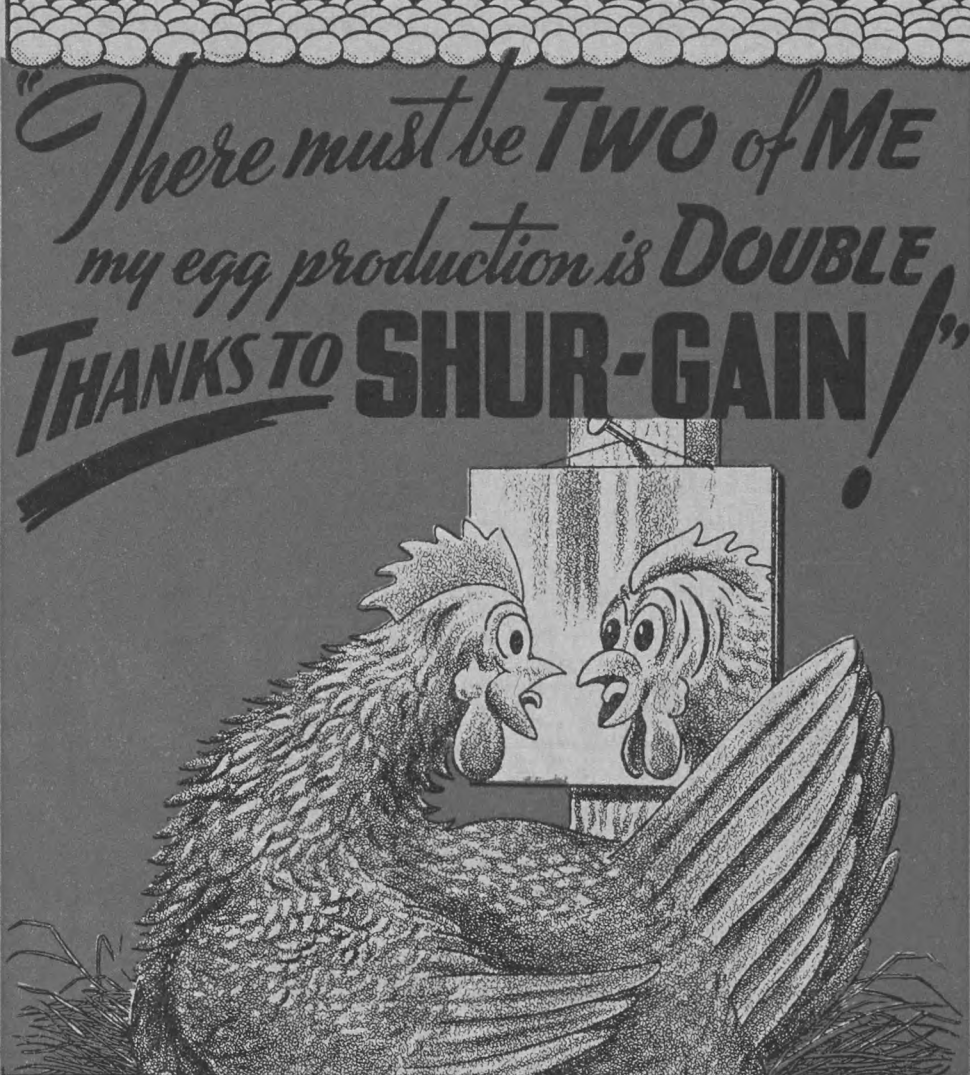
WHEAT OR MEAT?

Continued from page 5

ments, but a large deficit of rice. Relief assistance must be continued to a few countries, but most countries will be in a position to arrange very shortly to pay for what they need. Britain still lives on a very austere diet and is finding it hard work to maintain her meagre ration of bacon on the decreasing supplies which we sent over in 1946. (Since the Conference ended she has been forced to reduce her bacon ration from three to two ounces per week.) We fell down badly in our cheese and egg contracts, and oils and fats are extremely scarce everywhere.

On the other side of the picture is our own Canadian situation. We have contracts with Britain which cover most or all of our surpluses of nearly all major farm products, for from one to four years. In return for this stable market we should attempt to fill these contracts. Our wheat contract, though not at highest world prices, has put wheat out of line with ceiling prices for coarse grains. We need to protect our livestock industry by a substantial reserve of feed grains, principally oats and barley. An adequate supply of oats is necessary for the dairy industry, while cattle, hogs and poultry all need barley. Eastern Canada, too, depends on our cheaper produced feed grains to maintain its livestock industry and will need 188 cars of grain each day moving eastward from Winnipeg until the end of July, 1947, to meet her needs—a physical impossibility. Eastern Canada will, in fact, require from 75 to 100 million bushels of western feed grain every year. Probably another 100 million bushels of feed grain will be required each year for feed and seed in the Prairie Provinces. British Columbia depends on prairie-grown feed grains for her important dairy and poultry industries. We ought, too, as Mr. Gardiner pointed out, to have a full year's supply of oats in reserve in Canada. Across the line, also, there is a large market clamoring for malting barley, and willing to pay a hefty premium for it. In Canada, the only premium the malting barley producer gets is five cents per bushel, and this ought to be substantially raised. Further, the presently operating equalization payments of ten cents per bushel on oats and 15 cents on barley have been a thorn in the flesh to hog raisers, so that between this and the income tax, the shortage of labor and the price of wheat, hog marketings have steadily declined.

HERE was a pretty jumble of facts; and how was the Conference to go about sorting them out? Well, it didn't take very long to agree that the key to the puzzle was barley. Canada is threatened with a dangerous shortage of feed grain, and barley is the grain that counts most. If barley could be put in its proper place, most of the other pieces in the puzzle would fall into place readily. Obviously, something had to be done to increase the returns per acre for barley and make this crop more nearly comparable with wheat. If, however, the price of barley was raised, it would be necessary to break the War-time Prices and Trade Board price ceiling. This might be difficult to do.



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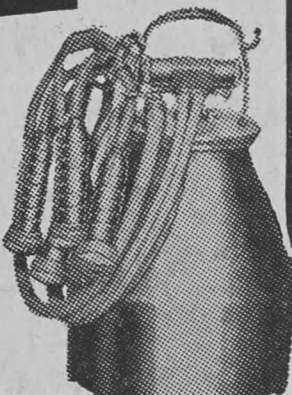
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Also, if the barley acreage is increased, the additional acreage will have to come out of either summerfallow or wheat. There was not much difficulty in agreeing that it should come out of wheat, since it might prove dangerous to make more than a limited reduction in summerfallow acreage; and it was not difficult to agree on a wheat acreage figure of 24 million, once this was understood. A figure of eight million acres for barley, or 1.3 million more than last year, was finally accepted on this basis; and though a number of delegates preferred increasing the barley price to any other method, it was finally agreed that a flat acreage payment on western seeded barley would offer more security to the grower and would avoid any early increase in feed prices. Along with this, it was understood that the troublesome equalization payment should be eliminated, and the free freight on western feed grains to eastern Canada continued, partly as compensation to the eastern grain grower who would not receive the acreage payment on barley. A further inducement for the government to consider a barley acreage payment which must come out of the public treasury, was the fact that elimination of the equalization payment would enable the treasury to at least partially recover the expenditure incurred.

Beef cattle are still high in number and not being rapidly reduced. Sheep and lambs will probably show a ten per cent reduction in marketings during the year, which was not of vital importance. The dairy industry had already made its representation to the Cabinet for higher returns, especially for butterfat, though our British cheese contract had been greatly undersupplied and fluid milk producers were clamoring for higher prices all over the country. Hogs were different. Actually, it was necessary to increase the barley acreage in order that more hogs might be marketed and fed, but under present conditions a sufficient increase in the number marketed to raise our annual marketings to a minimum of five million hogs, could not be secured unless the price were increased, so that something had to be done about hogs. Moreover, it was even then rumored that Britain might be willing to pay more than she is presently paying, in order to protect her consumers from a still further decrease in bacon supplies from Canada.

Equally important, perhaps, is the fact that if any substantial increase in hog marketings is secured, it must come from western Canada.

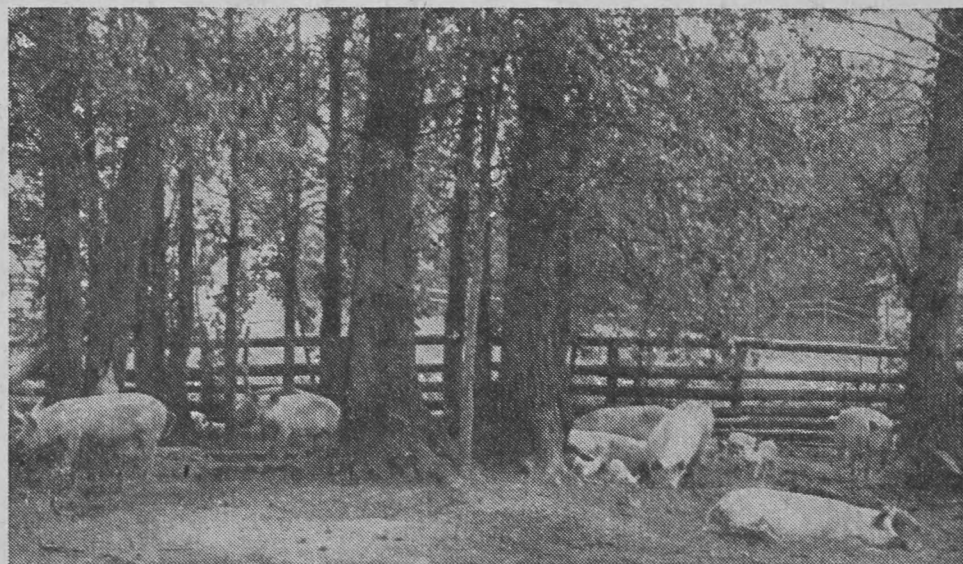
SO there we had it. All falling more nearly into place, and very neatly summarized by Mr. Gardiner at the end of the Conference as shown elsewhere with this article. The program places a heavy responsibility on the prairie provinces to produce wheat for hungry Europe, feed grains for eastern Canada, and the additional feed grains with

which to increase our own hog production, in order that Britain may keep on having her little bit of bacon in the morning two or three times a week. And even that is not quite all, because the oil-seed crops—flax, sunflowers, rape seed and soy beans—are necessary in substantial quantities to keep the world going on fats and oils. Most important of these is flax, and here again western Canada must produce it. For flax also, it is largely a question of price, and more especially a wheat-flax price ratio, which, under present conditions, must give flax at least 2½ times the price of wheat, if the additional half-million acres required is to be secured. The necessary black rape seed acreage can probably be secured in Saskatchewan. Ontario may hold her own with soy beans, but Manitoba must produce the 35 per cent increase in sunflowers, in all probability, if it is secured. Here, price is not so much of a factor as grading regulations.

Nor is this quite all that is asked for from western Canada, because hefty increases are suggested for alfalfa and alsike clover seed, as well as crested wheat grass, timothy and other grasses except brome. Fifty per cent more honey is asked for, and a little less wool than last year, while eastern Canada is expected to step out pretty heavily on maple products and tobacco. Sugar beets were stepped up 41 per cent, fibre flax 33 per cent.

Here, then, in summary form, are the highlights of the most successful Production Conference held yet, but these Conference decisions do not necessarily mean that what the Conference decided will be confirmed and implemented by the Dominion Government, any more than they mean that farmers will produce exactly the quantities the Conference deemed most desirable. Some of these decisions, as in the case of barley, hogs, dairy products and flax, will require additional money and payments from the Dominion Treasury at a time when nearly everyone, Government and farmers alike, would like to see subsidies eliminated and markets returned to a more normal basis.

Facts, however, are stubborn things and it may be that the facts which have made it desirable that such drains on the public treasury should be continued, will conflict with other facts which the Government must keep in mind before arriving at final decisions, as a result of which it may not be considered practicable to approve all these recommendations. Certainly, however, those present at the Conference were convinced that the decisions arrived at were sound and in the best interests of the world food situation and of the Canadian farm economy. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Minister of Agriculture will be able to present the decisions of the Conference successfully to his colleagues in the Government, and that announcement of final Government policy will be made promptly.



[Guide photo.]

These useful bacon-type Yorkshires of the Peace River country in Alberta, represent the wide adaptability of swine to western conditions.

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GRAND CHAMPION



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GRAND CHAMPION



Marellbar Mandate, Grand Champion Shorthorn Bull, owned by Marellbar Farms, Libertyville, Ill.

GRAND CHAMPION



Old Orchard Starlette 2nd, Grand Champion Hereford Female, raised by Old Orchard Farm, Peterborough, Ont.

GRAND CHAMPION



Barbara M of Agincourt, Grand Champion Angus Female, raised by H. C. Hatch Estate, Agincourt Farms, Unionville, Ont.

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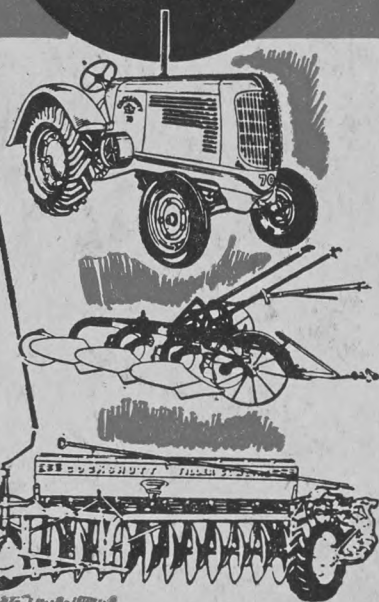
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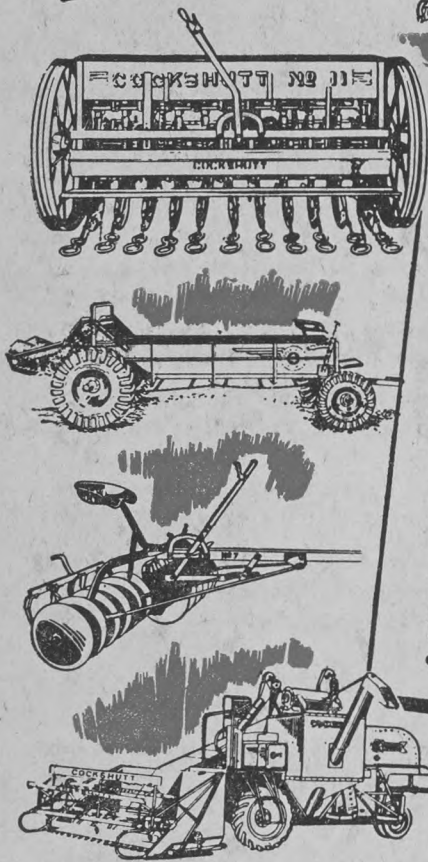
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FIELD



[Ewing photo.]
Winter and wood-cutting time are almost synonymous terms, and in wooded areas there is always plenty of it to do.

Grain Varieties for 1947

The year's recommendations are now made and are available to every farmer at any point in the Prairie Provinces

FOR nearly 20 years now, the crop, insect and disease specialists, including all of those directly working in the field of agronomy, whether in research, experimentation, or extension, and the pathologists and entomologists, (whose work is to find ways of protecting crops from injury by disease or insect pests), have been meeting at the close of each year to consider the experiences of the year, the new knowledge gained, to analyze the results of crop and variety testing, and to make recommendations to farmers as to varieties likely to prove most profitable in particular areas.

At this writing, varieties recommended for seeding in 1947 are to hand from Manitoba and Saskatchewan and, in the main, indicate significant trends, rather than marked changes in the varieties recommended. That is to say, new varieties such as the rust-resistant Redman, and the sawfly-resistant Rescue, appear on the list for the first time. Available seed of these varieties, however, will not be sufficient to meet demand, so that for a very large number of farmers these recommendations have little practical value. It is impossible here to reproduce the detailed recommendations for each crop and for each varietal zone, but these details are readily obtainable from any office of any one of the provincial departments of agriculture. Obviously, they cannot take specific account of minor differences of soil and other factors within the individual zone, though as time goes on the zones are redivided and subdivided further on the basis of additional experimental evidence.

In Manitoba, recommended varieties of wheat show no change, except for the addition of Redman as first choice where seed can be obtained, in all districts except the northwest, where, of the three preferred varieties, Redman stands midway between Thatcher and Regent, until such time as additional experimental evidence may be obtained. The new variety of Durum wheat, Stewart, is given preference this year in the Durum area, except in the Red River Valley, where its somewhat weaker straw gives it second place to Carleton, which is slightly lower in yield. In this area, too, Vanguard oats are dropped for this year, and the Exeter variety recommended as superior, if anything, to Ajax. Exeter, in fact, is recommended for all parts of the province, but is preferred for the Red River Valley and for most of the central and all of the northern districts, as well as for the high-lime soils of the Red River. For most of the southern portions of

the province, detailed recommendations will show Ajax preferred.

The Red River Valley is called the feed barley zone, and here the Alberta variety Sanalta is given preference this year over Plush, which is more susceptible to root rot in the moister areas. Though low yielding, Wisconsin 38 is recommended after Plush; and for late sowing only (on account of weak straw) Gartons is recommended, as indeed it is for all parts of the province for this special purpose. Outside of the feed barley zone, Plush is preferred to Sanalta. For malting barley, the new variety Montcalm is now preferred over O.A.C. 21, or Mensury (Ottawa 60). Broadly speaking, the malting barley areas in Manitoba include the Red River Valley, a small area of grey-black and grey-wooded soils in the Turtle mountains, the high-lime soils east of the Red River, and pretty well all of the cultivated area in the province west of the Red River and north of the Assiniboine, except the light and medium-textured black soils in districts 2B and 2C, which lie north of the Assiniboine.

Redwing flax, which is early maturing but moderately susceptible to rust, is the only variety recommended for all parts of Manitoba. However, the variety Royal, which is rust-resistant, is given first preference for nearly all of the southern portion of the province west of the Red River and including all of soil zones 1, 2A, 2B and 2C. Prolific spring rye and Dakold winter rye carry forward the recommendations of previous years, while a new variety, Arthur, has been added to the field peas list, though Chancellor (Dashaway) and Early Blue still have the preference.

WHEREAS in Manitoba varietal zones are based on soil zones of the province, the 17 varietal zones in Saskatchewan are based primarily on the results of variety testing. Changes this year are not numerous. Rescue, where available, is recommended for sawfly control only in western and southwestern Saskatchewan, while Redman, where available, is recommended for the eastern zones 3A and 3D. Thatcher, which is still the leading variety in Saskatchewan, is recommended for all zones except a small area in the northwest classified as 3H. Regent is removed from the list for zone 3A in the southeast corner of the province, but it continues for the surrounding zones 2A, 2E, 3B and 3C, as well as for 3H. A new stronger-strawed, higher-yielding strain of Apex made it possible to leave this variety in the heavy soil zones 2E and

2F, while Red Bobs is suitable for seeding only in 3H, and Reliance in 1B, which is west of Swift Current on the western boundary of the province.

The principal change in oat variety recommendations in Saskatchewan is that Ajax is no longer recommended for several of the northern zones, owing to the fact that Exeter is distinctly higher in yield in these areas. Ajax is still recommended, however, for all parts of Saskatchewan except the northeastern and northern zones 3D, 3F, 3H, 4A and 4B, while Exeter is suitable for all zones except 1A, 1B, 2C and 2F in the southwestern corner of Saskatchewan, and zone 3H. Victory is considered suitable only for zone 2F and 3H.

Among barley varieties, Prospect, Rex and Newal have been dropped from the list entirely, in favor of Titan and Plush, the former being recommended for zones 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E and 2F, while Plush is recommended for all zones except 1A, 1B, 2C, 2F and 3H. Montcalm, the new malting barley, is recommended for the Park belt and forest zones, nine in number. Regal is recommended only for 3H and Hannchen only in 3D and 3F.

Royal flax is recommended for all but four of the 17 zones, the exceptions all being in northern areas, while Redwing, because of its earliness, is the choice for six of the northern zones.

Detailed recommendations, accompanied by maps showing the varietal zones, are available for each of the provinces, and will be supplied when detailed recommendations are applied for.

Palatability of Hay & Pasture Grasses

THERE is considerable difference in the palatability of various grasses and legumes used either for hay or pasture in the case of sheep. Extensive tests made in Oregon over the past four years with nearly 300 strains and varieties representing nearly 100 species proved this.

Dividing the most promising grasses into three groups, based on palatability, was found practicable both in the case of hay and of pasture. For use as hay, palatability tests based on the percentage of total hay eaten by sheep, showed that the most palatable included crested wheat grass, smooth brome, beardless wheat grass, bluegrass, meadow fox tail and timothy. Those only moderately palatable, where the sheep refused to eat from 15 to 30 per cent of the hay, included orchard grass, tall oat grass, meadow fescue, beardless wild rye and erect brome. The least palatable hays of which sheep refused to eat from 30 to 50 per cent included wheat hay, tall oat grass, alta fescue, Canada wild rye, reed canary grass and Michels rye.

Grasses used as pasture were rated as follows for palatability, based on the amount eaten above a four-inch stubble. Sheep left ten per cent or less of smooth brome, orchard grass, meadow fox tail, meadow fescue, tall oat grass and creeping timothy. They left from 10 to 20 per cent of creeping red fescue, mountain brome, standard crested wheat grass, fairway crested wheat grass, Canada wild rye, and wheat grass, and they refused to eat from 21 to 50 per cent of alta fescue, slender wheat grass, Cheving's fescue, erect brome, and beardless wild rye.

Practically, of course, yield must be combined with palatability to get profitability. Then, too, some varieties such as reed canary grass are particularly well suited to flooded areas. In very dry areas where the less palatable crops are the only ones available, palatability can be increased by harvesting earlier in the season. Certain grasses, such as crested wheat grass, and beardless wheat grass are adapted to low rainfall areas, whereas smooth brome

is intermediate with respect to moisture requirement, and timothy must have plenty of moisture. Another factor is the availability of seed, and such crops as timothy, crested wheat grass and smooth brome are most readily available. Getting a grass crop established is a problem with some species and in some areas. It has also been found in Oregon that orchard grass, smooth brome and creeping red fescue, while palatable, do not yield heavily unless stimulated by a legume and heavy applications of manure. It is a well known fact in western Canada that brome grass and alfalfa sown together as a mixture are more satisfactory in yield than when either is seeded alone.

Quite a few grasses are much more palatable at some seasons of the year than others. Thus meadow foxtail, crested wheat grass, and tall oat grass are classified in Oregon as spring pasture grasses, while summer grasses include alta fescue, meadow fescue, and tall oat grass. The palatability of all of these extends also into the fall, when creeping red fescue is also most palatable.

How Many People Can We Feed?

IN the present state of our knowledge of human food and nutrition there is a great deal that is not yet known about how the rest of the world is fed. We are just now getting busy trying to find out how we ourselves are fed. Other democratic countries, such as the United States, Great Britain, Denmark and the more fully developed countries of northwestern Europe, are taking a similar interest in nutrition. Internationally, we are coming to recognize some responsibility for the health and food supplies of other people.

Figures suggesting the total population of the world are frequently quoted, but it is evident that the statisticians do not know the correct figure within, perhaps, 100 millions. Figures are also used to indicate the total amount of cultivable land in the world, and the amount available per person. Estimates of this latter figure vary a great deal, not only because of a lack of absolute knowledge, but depending on whether the total amount of land on which crops of any kind can be grown is considered, or whether we have in mind land which the people in the more advanced countries would consider to be reasonably good farm land.

Sir John Russell, until recent years director of the famous Rothamstead Experiment Station in England, suggests that the total cultivable area in the world is from six to eight acres per person, but that much of this is farmed in very primitive fashion and an undetermined quantity is not yet cultivated at all. In densely populated countries, such as in most of Europe, he says most of the food is produced on 1½ to two acres per head of population. Great Britain, which was well fed before the war, required about 2½ acres per person, but a great deal of this was in overseas countries since Great Britain herself does not have this much land at home.

In Russia, food land averages less than two acres per head, and in India about one acre. It is estimated that a satisfactory diet can only be achieved for a people on approximately 2½ acres per person.

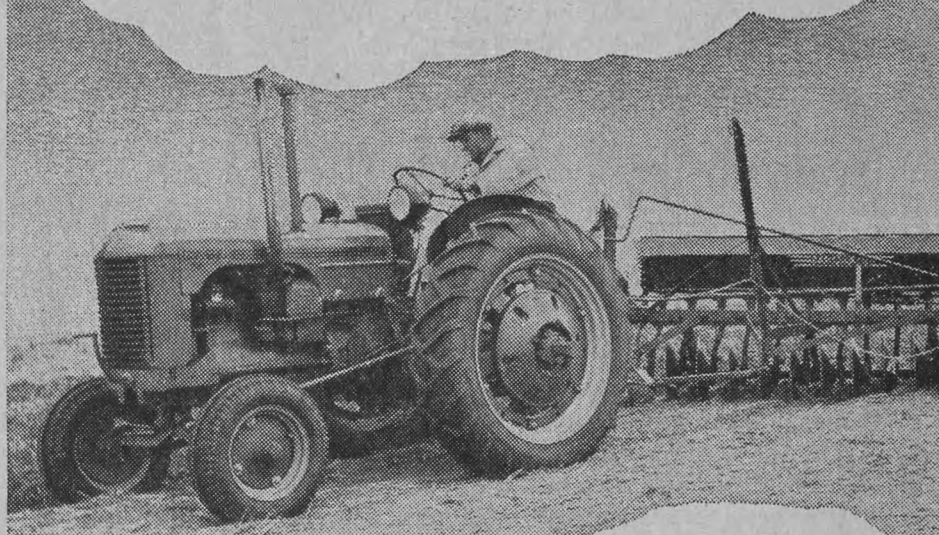
SCOUTING AROUND

Continued from page 7

800 acres of land in western Canada could stand!

True, I saw the farm in operation at pea harvesting time; and of the

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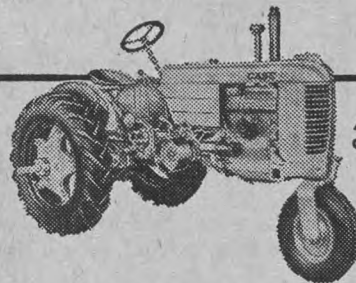
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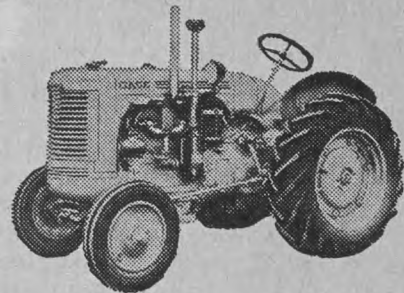
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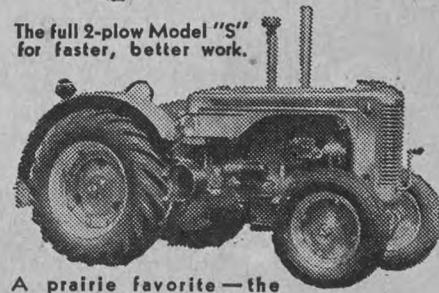
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M-46-18

entire farm, 600 acres were devoted to this crop. I understood that the balance of the land was largely devoted to cover crop and that livestock enterprises consisted of the fattening of lambs and cattle.

Some of this machinery that we saw may have been custom-hired, but in any event it was employed, and from a listing of the equipment, made as we drove away, Dr. Karl Rasmussen of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Lethbridge, and I concluded that we had seen one stacker, three special pea-harvesters (with reels), two loaders, four special pea-vine spreaders, a corresponding number of trucks and munition carriers, eight or ten tractors (including two caterpillars), and four power units (diesel) operating eight viners. In addition, about 50 men were employed.

If one could assume for the moment that all of the machinery was owned by the farm; that land in that area is worth, say \$80 per acre; and that the pea crop, worth \$50 per ton of shelled peas, would run 1½ tons per acre, with pea hay worth \$16 per ton for feeding purposes, then a person looking at that 800-acre farm when the crop was ready to harvest might perhaps have bought it as it stood for around \$150,000, less the cost of harvesting and hauling. Such speculation is, of course, worthless except to point up the highly mechanized nature of this particular farming proposition, and the capital requirement of large-scale cash crop production.

As we turned into the farm, we saw an interesting experiment under way in a pea field across the road. Here a fully automatic John Deere power take-off hay baler was experimenting with the baling of pea hay. Instead of drawing the vines directly from the viner to the stacker for silage, they were loaded into specially built spreaders and then spread over a field already harvested. When ready, they were raked into windrows and the cured vines picked up from the windrows or swaths by the baler. The practicability of this method was by no means assured, because the vines by this time were in shorter pieces and brittle. The bales would not stand any rough handling and would crumble readily to the hand. The baler produced a sectional bale. The vines were picked up from the ground by revolving cylinder teeth, caught by a rake on an eccentric, and then by a tumbling fork. Periodically the sections which would ultimately comprise the bale were packed and the bale released eventually and let fall to the ground, wire bound.

In actual harvesting operations, a special pea-harvester equipped with reels was in use. The reels operated on an eccentric so that the spikes on the reels gathering in the vines were always hanging down. When drawn into the harvester, the vines moved off on a belt and were left in a windrow.—H.S.F.

Farming On Light Saskatchewan Soil

FIRST-TIME visitors on the prairies almost invariably comment on the monotony of the country from a train window. People who live in the prairie provinces and have had some chance to examine their soil, topography and people in some detail, know that this is not true. Differences in soil and topography are in many cases so clearly evident within one or two miles of travel as to demand a quite different type of farming.

The predominance of grain farming in a province such as Saskatchewan, for example, leads to erroneous conclusions, because within the huge grain producing area of that province lie a great many different sets of conditions.

One of these I met with some time ago on the farm of D. Switzer, Paynton, Saskatchewan. I found him with his son, repairing the steel-wheeled tractor. The farm consists of nine quarters, of which one section is pasture, and the remaining five quarters farmed, on which there are 300 acres of cultivated land. It is a good barley area. Sweet clover is grown and hay is cut on the pasture land. Income is chiefly from cattle, since, although some grain is sold, it is only surplus quantities; and a year's reserve of about 4,000 bushels is always kept on hand.

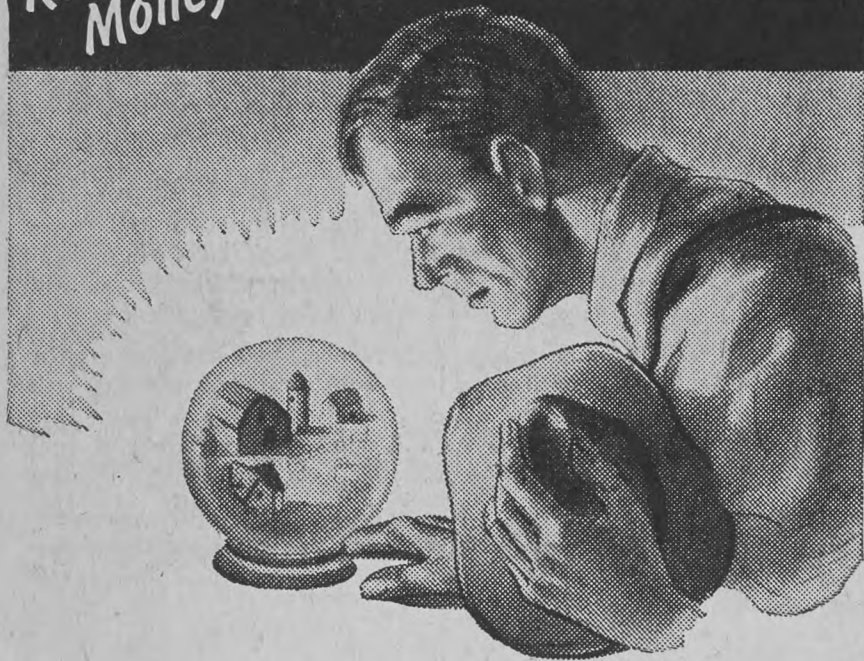
Formerly a considerable number of turkeys were raised, but the coyotes got them. Before the extremely low prices in the thirties, Mr. Switzer said he kept and made money on pigs. The herd of cattle numbered 60, and included 30 cows, mostly grades, but included three purebred two-year-olds, and the herd sire is purebred also.

Any kind of intensive farming on such fairly sandy soil in that district is pretty well out of the question. Cattle, to be profitable, must be of pretty good quality. In the spring of 1946, Mr. Switzer showed at the Saskatoon Show and though securing no more than fifth place in the ring, took away the high price at the auction, receiving for his 825-pound (average) animals \$16.85 per cwt. as compared with \$14.25 for the first prize group. He finds that it takes about 50 bushels of grain to carry an animal through a seven-month period and put it in proper shape for the market.

At the time of my visit a group of pail-fed calves was held in the corral ready to turn on a small, seeded and fenced pasture adjacent to the buildings. The latter, until now, have not been very elaborate. An addition is planned for the house and a new 32x60 foot hip-roofed barn was under construction. The work was being done largely without hiring and floors and cattle stalls were yet to be installed.

Mr. Switzer was Manitoba-born north of Carberry, and he told us that his sister was the first white girl born in that district. He has been in his present location since about 1908.—H.S.F.

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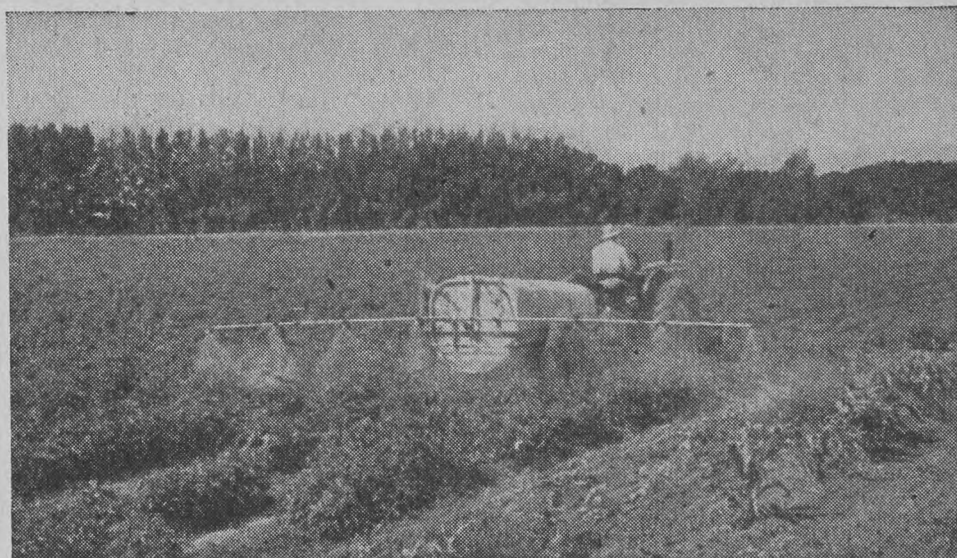
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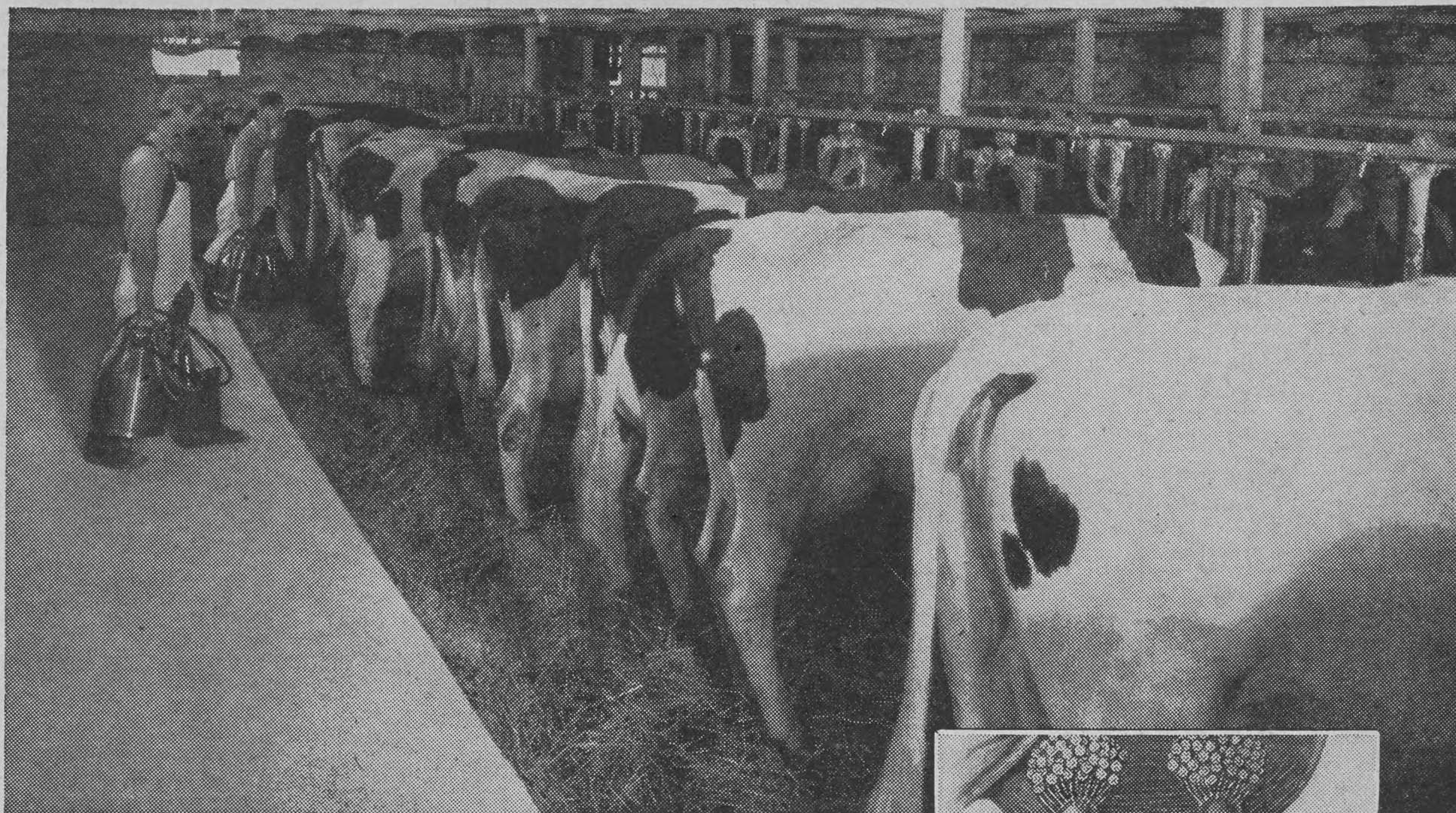


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[Guide photo.]
Growing good commercial crops of potatoes means a continual fight against disease. This modern spray outfit is operating at the Provincial Horticultural Station, Brooks, Alta.



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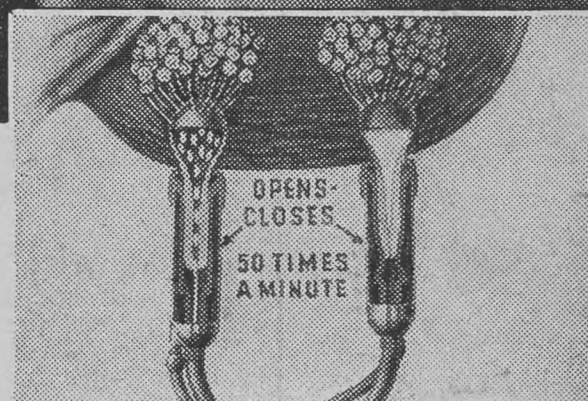
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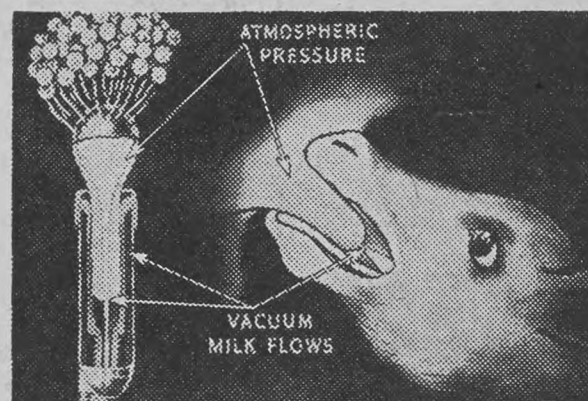
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY
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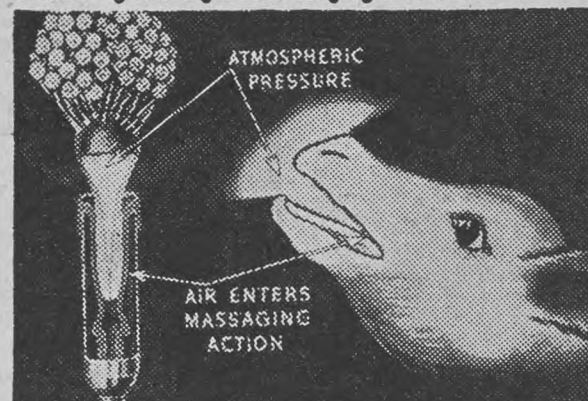
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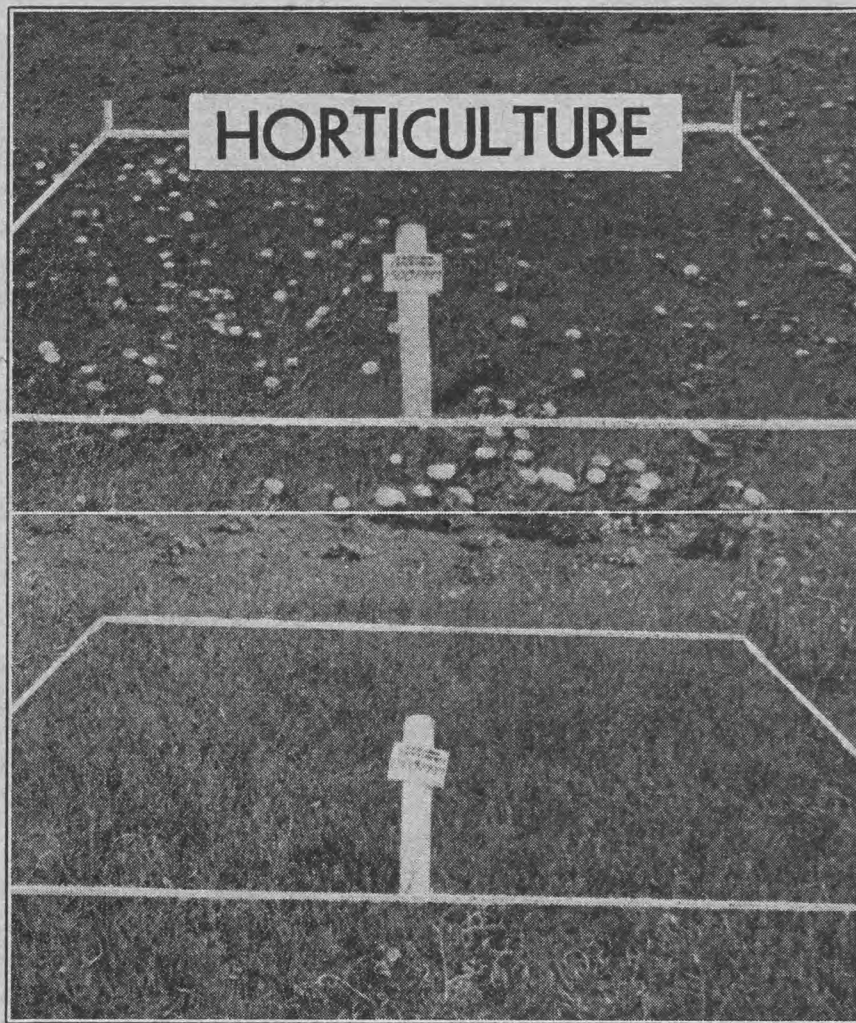
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IN THE
ARCTIC
FIRST IN YOUR
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[Lethbridge Exper. St'n. photo.
Weeds which make lawns unsightly can now be easily controlled by spraying with 2,4-D, as these two pictures from the Dominion Experimental Station at Lethbridge show.

Soils Versus Healthful Food

Experiments are under way at the University of British Columbia which already point the way to a better understanding of the relation of soils and fertilizers to food quality

By J. T. EWING

HOW do various conditions of soil and fertility affect the food value of vegetables? This question did not worry our forefathers. We have not been greatly concerned with it until recently. But with efforts being intensified to improve our health, and with the public becoming increasingly vitamin conscious, enquiries are being made into the effect of various fertilizers on the common table vegetables.

At the University of British Columbia, Doctor G. Howell Harris, of the Department of Horticulture, has been conducting various experiments with the commoner garden vegetables in co-operation with Safeway Stores. Briefly, they seek to ascertain the effect of locality, soil, and fertilizer treatment on the food value of vegetables.

These experiments were begun in 1941, and included carrots and turnips the first year. Later, potatoes, lettuce, peas, beets, onions, broccoli, hubbard squash, and tomatoes were added to the list.

Results of the experiments apply, of course, more particularly to conditions peculiar to British Columbia. In many respects, however, they apply also to most other areas in Canada.

"We are trying the effect of different fertilizer mixtures on different soil types," Doctor Harris told me in a recent interview. "We also are studying the effect of the trace elements, boron, copper, zinc, and manganese.

"We are trying to find answers to certain questions: Is the food value of a carrot (for example) grown on peat as good as one grown on rich loam? Does fertilizer treatment have an effect on food value? If a certain district produces vegetables tending to have inferior food value, does treatment of the soil have the desired effect of bringing it up to the standard?"

While only preliminary results were available as yet, Doctor Harris had definite evidence that some soils will produce carrots having a high sugar content, others a high vitamin content. By the proper use of fertilizers, however, the difference can be made negligible.

"We had to make sure there was plenty of potash in the fertilizers used," Doctor Harris revealed. "We found it very effective in raising food values. If the fertilizer used lacked potash the vegetables produced were lower in food value, although they might appear very good.

"We also checked the effect of potassium fertilizer on the keeping quality of vegetables in storage. We found, again, that if they were well supplied with potash they kept better."

As data on carrots were most complete, Doctor Harris confined his remarks mainly to this vegetable. He found that the largest roots were produced in peat. The sugar content was highest in sandy clays and light clay loams, lowest in clay. Peat produced the most acid carrots; sandy soil, those which were least acid.

Vitamin A content was highest in the carrots grown in clay soils. Those produced in sandy loam carried the highest percentage of vitamin C, followed closely by those produced in sandy loam. Sandy loam and light clay soils produced roots having the highest dry weight.

Not only did the carrots supplied with fertilizers having a high potash content, produce roots with the highest food value, but these carrots also produced the largest roots, and those having the highest sugar content.

Other fertilizers were used with indifferent results, excepting in the case of nitrogen. Where fertilizers having a high nitrogen content were applied, the carrots grown were low in sugar content; also in vitamins A and C. The proportion of minerals in the carrots was altered very little by the use of the various fertilizers, with the exception of those high in nitrogen. Mineral content was slightly lowered in such roots.

It was found that the keeping quality of carrots varied to some extent in various soils and under different fertilizer treatments. Those produced in sandy soil kept best, heavy clays, next best, and peat, poorest of all.

Those grown in soil treated with a fertilizer high in potash kept best, while

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those with a high nitrogen content were the poorest keepers, the experiments showed. Those soils treated with fertilizer containing a medium amount of potash or of nitrogen, kept second best.

The micro-elements, copper, zinc, boron, and manganese are needed in only very small amounts by plants. However, if those minute quantities are not available the growth is often seriously affected.

"On peat soil," Doctor Harris reported, "the addition of boron, zinc, and copper all increased the yield. They tended to decrease the sugar content and dry weight of the carrots. They increased the keeping quality. On clay soils the yield was increased only by the application of copper, but larger roots were obtained by the use of boron.

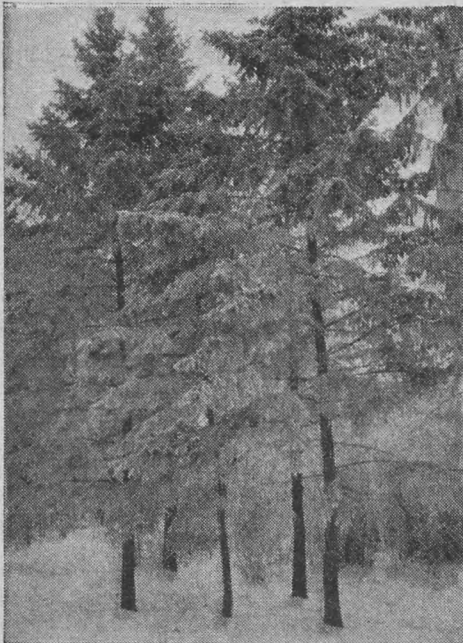
"The sugar content was increased, both by the addition of boron and of zinc. The keeping quality was increased by boron. On light sandy loam the yield was increased when each of the micro-elements was used. None, however, increased sugar content. The keeping quality was increased by copper, manganese, and zinc."

These data cannot be considered conclusive evidence of the benefits to be derived from the use of fertilizers with a high potash content. Nor of the economic value of the application of trace elements in the production of garden vegetables. These are only preliminary findings, but are reliable indications of the importance of adequate supplies of plant food in the production of vegetables having a high food value.

Import Regulations

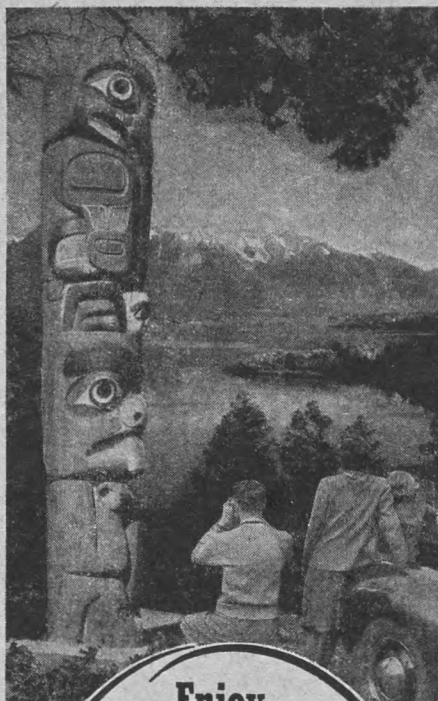
ENTHUSIASTIC gardeners and fruit growers occasionally desire to import some variety of plant, whether flower, shrub or tree, from the United States or other foreign country. It is well to know that a permit must be obtained before doing so, from the Chief, Plant Protection Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. This requirement is made in order that no prohibited plant or plant bearing serious diseases may be brought into the country.

An application for a permit should indicate (a) the number of plants involved, (b) kind and variety, (c) value, (d) name of importer and address, (e) name of shipper and address, (f) to what point it will be shipped, (g) whether shipment will be made by parcel post, express or freight. A numbered permit will be mailed to the applicant, and also a special mailing label. The importer should then send his order with the mailing labels to the shipper, and quote his permit number.



[Guide photo.

The touching of these trees with winter is but one of many proofs that trees bring with them the beauty of the seasons.



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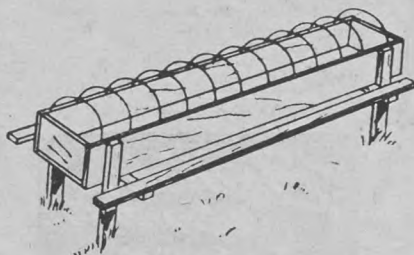
Branding, Dehorning, Hoof Trimming, Feeding Ideas

Fix Up Binder and Combine Canvas

Get out the binder and combine canvases and put them in first class condition now, so you won't have to stop for repairs during the harvest rush. If the front edge is frayed, loosen the front ends of the slats, cut strips of canvas about a foot wide and fold it in the middle lengthwise, then slip the folded strip over the front of the old canvas, and tack and rivet it solidly to each slat. The spaces between the slats can be stuck down on both sides with ordinary rubber cement or with flexible fabric cement. If the flap at the end of the canvas has whipped so short that it lets straw get inside, put on an extra piece by tacking it under the first slat and cementing it to the old flap, and then fasten on shoe strings or thongs so the flap can be tied down to prevent any whipping. Any holes or tears in the canvas can be patched by cementing on a piece.—I. W. Dickerson.

Protects Mash Feeder

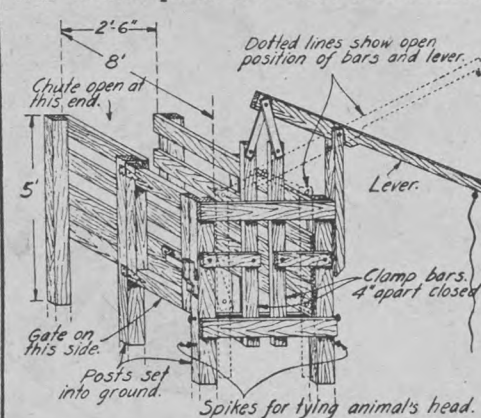
Any size or length of trough can be used. Drive four stakes into the ground, depending on the width and length of



the trough. Then nail cross pieces as shown for the trough to rest on about 12 inches from the ground and extending about 12 inches out on each side of the trough. Then put a 1x4 along each side for the fowls to stand on while eating. Then cut fairly heavy wire into about 24-inch lengths, bend them into a U-shape and tap them into holes drilled about two to three inches apart in the edges of the trough. If desired, it can be made portable by nailing and bracing the legs and cross pieces to the trough itself.—I.W.D.

Dehorning and Branding Chute

The chute shown is recommended and the construction is clearly indicated. Round posts are most often used



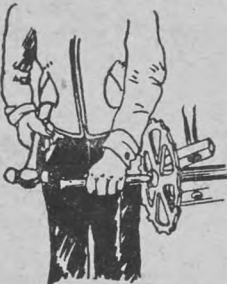
and poles and slabs may be used for the sides, provided they are free of knots and splinters. The gate shown at the side is for castrating, branding, etc.

Imitation Frosting for Windows

White lead paint can be used to make imitation frosting on bathroom or other windows where you want to obstruct the view from the outside. Reduce lead paste to the consistency of buttermilk by adding turpentine. Clean and dry the glass, put a coat of the paint on the inside of the glass and stipple it with a wad of cheesecloth. It's not a bad idea to do a little practising on odd pieces of glass before starting on your windows.

To Remove Sprockets

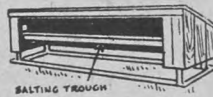
Usually straight keys can be pulled by setting a vice-grip pliers tightly on the protruding part and driving against the pliers with a punch through the sprocket. Occasionally a drift punch can be used in the key-way from the back of the hub. In extreme cases it may be necessary to drill out the key.



Hold a heavy bar or sledge against the back of the hub as close to the shaft as possible. Use a large punch or short iron bar that is slightly smaller than the shaft. Hold it squarely against the end of the shaft and strike with a heavy hammer. If a screw type gear puller is available it may be set in place and the pressure gradually applied with the screw, while at the same time a heavy punch set against the back of the hub is struck a sharp blow with a heavy hammer.

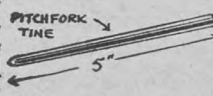
Shelter for Salting Trough

So that his sheep could have access to salt at all times, and to prevent waste, one farmer constructed this salting trough shelter. It is just high enough to let the sheep at the trough which is sheltered from rain or snow. The size of the shelter can be varied according to the size of the flock. A small one will do on most western farms.



Punch from Tine

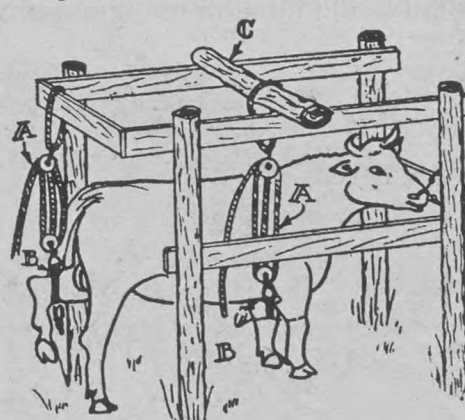
A dandy pin punch for use on small work can be made of a five-inch piece of a pitchfork tine, properly ground on the small end and tempered.—Bob Larson.



Hoof-trimming Rack

Here is a diagram of a handy rack for trimming bull and cattle hoofs. The only materials needed are four posts 8½x9 feet long, five eight-foot 2x6's, a short post, a barbed wire stretcher, and a sling. The posts are set solidly in the ground about four feet apart and the stall constructed as shown.

To lift the hind foot, hang the wire stretcher from the beam above the animal's hind quarters. Take a heavy strap with a ring in each end (the breast strap from work harness will do) and



put a sling around the animal's leg just above the hock, hooking the rings on the lower end of the wire stretcher. Now when you pull up on the stretcher, the foot is brought into position where you can do a good job of trimming it with a pair of hoof nippers. The animal may kick a little, but will soon quiet down when it finds it does no good.

To lift the front foot, attach the sling to the post across the top of the stall and around the fore leg just below the knee, and lift as before with the fence stretcher.—I.W.D.

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The moment you replace that smelly, old, open flame lamp with Aladdin's soft, bright white light, eye-strain and fatigue due to insufficient light, will be relieved. The cost of an Aladdin is very low, and it burns 50 hours on a single gallon of kerosene—about 2 cents a night. Lights instantly. No noise, smoke or odor.

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R.O.P. Sired	Not Sexed	Pullets
White Leghorns	100 50	100 50
Barred Rocks	15.75 8.35	31.50 16.25
White Rocks	16.75 8.85	29.00 15.00
White Rocks	16.75 8.85	
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White Leghorns	14.25 7.60	29.00 15.00
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Write for our 1947 calendar and annual catalog and price list.

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Conducted by

Professor W. J. RAE, University of Saskatchewan



For the higher price paid by Britain for September-January delivery on the 1947-49 contract, February-April hatched chicks are needed. They should be ordered now.

first chance to show what she can do in meeting these objectives.

Assured Price

Under the terms of the new egg contract, there is an assured price for 1947. The price schedule for the year provides for two price levels. The first is the basic price which is paid for eggs purchased during the spring and summer (February 1 to August 31). This price is about one cent per dozen higher than the price paid in 1946. The second price period is known as the premium period, which is from September 1 to January 31. During this period, the price will be seven cents a dozen higher than for the summer period. This premium price is being paid to encourage the production of fall and winter eggs. It should be pointed out that it is the fall and winter eggs that Britain needs. She is not nearly as interested in our summer eggs.

[Ewing photo.]

Britain's Egg Consumption

BEFORE the war, the people of Great Britain ate about three eggs per person per week. This meant that about 22 million cases of eggs were consumed annually. Of this amount, two-thirds were produced by the farm flocks of Great Britain and the balance had to be imported. At the present time, egg consumption in England is only a little over one egg per person per week and most of these come from Canada. Britain's hope is to restore prewar consumption and, if possible, raise it to at least four eggs per person per week. This means that a great many more eggs must be produced both at home and in the exporting countries. Canada should be interested in retaining a portion of this market. To this end, contracts have been negotiated.

Assured Markets

NEVER before in the history of Canadian agriculture has there been such a splendid opportunity for farmers to organize their poultry production program as now exists because of the negotiations which have taken place between the Canadian producer and the British consumer. The new egg contract provides an assured market for all the eggs that Canada can possibly produce. Surely this assurance should make it possible for farmers to plan with confidence, because the duration of the agreement is from now until January, 1949. Further contracts for 1949 and 1950 are already being discussed.

Britain is expecting Canada to ship at least three million cases of eggs per year. The delivery of these eggs is an important part of the agreement. One million cases of A-Large, A-Medium, and A-Pullet shell eggs must be delivered between September 1 and January 31. If another half-million cases could be shipped during this period, it would greatly strengthen Canada's bargaining power for future contracts. Two million cases are to be delivered during the balance of the year as storage eggs and as sugar-dried eggs.

Britain's objectives in signing such a contract with us is to assure the people of the United Kingdom of (a) a quality product and (b) a continuity of supply throughout the year. The government of the Old Country is quite determined to provide the people with more eggs. Canada is being given the

Adjusted Production

NOW that we know how many eggs we can produce, where we can sell them, and the price which we will receive, we can plan our production program. Since the emphasis is on fall and winter eggs, our efforts should be directed towards changing the laying habits of our hens. Get them to lay in September instead of April. In order to do this, farmers must have earlier-hatched pullets. In Ontario and British Columbia, this means January, February, and March pullets. On the prairies, more March and April chicks are needed, although a few prairie producers may be equipped to handle February chicks. June chicks have no place in this adjusted program. The slogan adopted by the representatives of the various poultry industry groups across Canada is "Planned Production Is Market Insurance." Now is the time to order early chicks. This is part of the planned production program.

Vent Gleet

THIS ailment occasionally causes trouble in a flock and since the infection appears to be spread mainly by means of the male bird during the breeding season, when the birds are mated or shortly after is a good time to make an inspection. The infection causes inflammation of the cloaca and vent and the skin surrounding the vent becomes swollen and ulcerated. The odor is characteristic and offensive. The ailment is not easily cured and unless the bird is particularly valuable the best procedure is to kill it and either burn or bury the carcass. If allowed to remain in the flock it is a source of danger to the healthy birds. Birds that are to be treated should be kept isolated.

A New Idea

FOR many years, dry mash feed hoppers were equipped with various types of reels and rollers designed to prevent the hens from getting into the feed. The Poultry Department, University of Saskatchewan has discarded all such equipment and in its place has substituted a screen door spring which is stretched from end to end of the feed hopper just about three inches above the top level of the side walls of the hopper. It takes up less space and does not injure the bird's head as she puts her head in and out of the feeder.

HANSEY CHICKS FOR 1947

Place your order early to guarantee you chicks on date required. Write for our **FREE** catalog and calendar.

HANSEY APPROVED CHICKS

(Approved Banded Male Matings)

	March 1st to May 31
Barred Rock Mixed	100 50 25
Barred Rock Pullets	15.25 8.10 4.30
New Hampshire Mixed	26.00 13.50 7.00
New Hampshire Pullets	15.25 8.10 4.30
Light Sussex Mixed	26.00 13.50 7.00
Light Sussex Pullets	18.50 9.75 5.10
Heavy Breed Cockerels	29.50 15.25 7.85
Heavy Breed Cockerels	10.00 5.50 3.00

HANSEY R.O.P. Sired CHICKS

(Pedigreed Male Matings)

	March 1st to May 31
Barred Rock Mixed	100 50 25
Barred Rock Pullets	16.75 8.85 4.70
New Hampshire Mixed	29.00 15.00 7.75
New Hampshire Pullets	16.75 8.85 4.70
Light Sussex Mixed	29.00 15.00 7.75
Light Sussex Pullets	11.00 6.00 3.25

HANSEY SINGLE COMB R.O.P. Sired WHITE LEGHORN CHICKS

	March 1st to May 31
White Leghorns, Mixed	100 50 25
White Leghorns, Pullets	15.75 8.35 4.45
White Leghorns, Cockerels	31.50 16.25 8.40
White Leghorns, Cockerels	3.00 2.00 1.00

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1947 Price List

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SILENT HEAT OIL BURNER CO.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

DOWN THE DESERT WIND

Continued from page 8

any cowboy! Only a month before, Roddy had purchased from a neighbor ten miles west a carefully "gentled" bronc for the child's use. That broncho would take the children to safety, back to his former home. But night was coming. How could she start such babies out into the dark alone? Yet with a quick glance at the eastern sky, Anne St. George knew that she could not take them with her into what might be a greater peril.

"Listen, darlings," she said honestly, her voice quite cheerful, "that red sky isn't a sunset—it's a fire, so far away that we needn't fear it. But I once promised daddy that if I saw a fire in the distance I'd ride away to where it's safer still; so I shall put you both on Pinto, Nancy. He'll take you to Tim O'Day's beyond the creek, and Molly will look after you until I get there."

The little girl glanced up, suddenly frightened.

"But won't you come too, mother?"

ANNE nodded, a lump in her throat. She answered, taking the children's wraps from where they hung on wooden pegs behind a door: "Of course I'm coming—soon as I go for Mrs. Pratt and her new baby. Get into your coats, dears, while I catch Pinto; and wear your new boots, sonny. They're warmer."

"But—but it's almost dark, mother!" A hint of terror shook the small girl's voice.

"Yes, darling," soothed Anne, "but Pinto knows the way. Why, whenever you ride he tries to run back to his old home! He'll go fast as the wind." (Oh, faster, faster than the wind! She prayed inaudibly.) "Now hurry, chicks, I won't be long."

When she returned, both children stood waiting by the window, their small coats snugly buttoned—their faces strangely grave.

"Please, mother, tie Ruth to me so she won't fall," said Nancy, holding out her doll. Then, her face wistful: "I—I wish you'd come with us."

"I won't be far behind," Anne promised, her fingers fumbling in haste as she fastened the doll to Nancy's waist. "Now kiss me, both of you; and if you happen to meet daddy give him my love, and tell him where I've gone."

"Are—are you crying, mother? Your voice sounds—different."

"Nonsense!" Anne managed a brave laugh. They were outside now in the growing dusk, Nancy already mounted.

"Good-by, mummie," cried out the little boy as she lifted him up behind his sister. "I don't mind going by ourselves. Honest, I don't. It makes me feel sort—sort of c'rageous, like Texas Jim."

"That's right!" she smiled. "Hold tight to sister every minute, and tell—"

The bronc was off—suddenly—swiftly as if blown by desert wind . . .

For only a moment did the mother stand there while the gale whipped her long skirts about her feet. No time to watch those small, beloved figures. No time for vain regrets. She turned, stumbling blindly toward the corral; and as she faced it the wind blew something against her cheek. Dust? Ashes? "Not ashes!" she protested passionately as she ran. "Don't let it be ashes—yet, God! Please don't . . ."

WATCHING his horse drink at a shallow creek, Roddy St. George realized of a sudden that he himself was as tired as the thirsty mustang. He would have liked to rest a while in this sheltered spot—a water-washed gulley with cottonwoods on either side—but it was miles from home, and the sun had already set. Though the Vigilantes had accomplished their necessary work, it had taken them far afield; and now, all excitement over, the Englishman felt sickened by the whole affair. One poor chap had been hardly more than a boy—a boy strayed into bad company. It seemed a pity . . .

Roddy pulled himself together, sternly. Such morbid thoughts helped nobody. He was alone, for one by one his companions had dropped away, taking the shortest cuts to their own ranches. Anne and the children had had a long and solitary day, he mused. Right now they were doubtless scanning the prairie to the west, watching for him; unaware, of course, that after a dozen miles the trail had turned due north. They would get a surprise when he stole in at the back door!

Suddenly eager to be off, he called to the mustang and scrambled up the steep side of the gulley. A pleasant sense of anticipation was upon him now. He was seeing Anne's smile of welcome—hearing the children shout, "Here's daddy!"—smelling the good hot supper that would be waiting. And (bless her dear heart!) his wife would ask no questions. Now the horrid business was over this most reluctant Vigilante wanted to forget it—and Anne would understand. In the creek bed the wind had been scarcely noticeable; but (as he reached the plain) Roddy realized that it had increased in violence; and for a moment he stood still, staring in shock and consternation at a red glow lighting the eastern sky.

HAD it been there when he stopped to water the horse ten minutes since? Could it have been there and he not notice? . . . Wind east—and such a wind! . . . It seemed to take the breath out of his lungs . . . Miles to go, and a tired mount under him. (Roddy was in the saddle now, urging the mustang to a run.) Would Anne see the danger in time to reach O'Days? . . .

Panic possessed the desperate rider—panic for those dear ones whom he was powerless to help. And Anne was terrified at even the thought of fire. Her very silence had told her husband that . . . Curse this wind! Would it never stop? . . . If it would only change—turn back—kill the oncoming flames before it was too late; but they were spreading rapidly now, faster than the bronc could travel . . . Lucky that Sam Pratt had made for home an hour back . . . If he shouldn't get there—and Sue alone with her new baby . . .

Roddy St. George could never say just when the realization that he had lost the race swept over him. It had been a frantic ride—a cruel urging of a spent animal—thirst—the acrid odor of burning grass in his nostrils—smoke smarting his eyes, and suffocating fear in his heart. When, after what seemed eternity, a sudden change of wind turned the flames back upon themselves, the man scarcely noticed, for across the blackened prairie there shone no lights of home.

Let the mustang lag . . . It made no difference now . . . They were too late . . . What was that? Startled, Roddy sat suddenly erect. A shape in the darkness? Could it be possible? . . . No, only a horse broken loose from the corral . . . They must be near—yes, nearer than he had thought; for, as if to illuminate the scene of tragedy, a cloud that had obscured the moon drifted away, and

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Roddy St. George looked down upon the smoking embers of what had been his home.

BUT—but I don't want to go to bed till mother comes."

Across Nancy's smooth, fair hair the eyes of Molly O'Day met her husband's in a despairing glance. "Mother said," went on the little girl, "that she'd be right along. She said p'raps we'd meet daddy, but we didn't. Please, Mrs. O'Day, don't make me go to bed till mother comes."

A sprained knee had kept Tim O'Day from joining the Vigilantes that morning. He was in a rocking chair beside the stove, and, reaching out, pulled the child down onto his one good knee. His big, hairy hand felt very gentle as he stroked her shoulder. He said: "Let her stay here, Molly. I'll tell her some stories till she gets sleepy, like the boy. Maybe" (his kind voice faltered just a trifle), "maybe her mother'll be along real soon."

His wife drew in a quick breath and turned away, peering out anxiously from a small window. "The fire ain't started up again, Tim, and the moon's out bright I'm thinkin'..."

"Once upon a time," began Tim O'Day, and paused. Molly had opened the door, and stood there listening. The wind was dead now—gone—its dread work finished. Two stars shone pale but clear beside a moon which lighted the willows by the creek; and somewhere in the stillness a coyote howled.

"Once upon a time," said Tim again, "there was—what is it, Molly? Do you hear somethin', maybe?"

"I thought—yes, it's hoof beats, Tim! Crossin' the creek."

Nancy slid down from Tim O'Day's broad knee. The man, reaching for a homemade cane, dragged himself up, his face tense in the yellow lamplight. The child had run to the door and was standing there beside the woman when a breathless mustang drew up before them, and Roddy St. George slipped from the saddle.

"Daddy!"

Roddy caught up his small girl hungrily, burying his face a moment in her soft hair. His hands were shaking. His voice shook too as he gasped the question, "Are they all safe, Molly?"

For just a second the woman hesitated. Then: "The children came alone, Roddy, on Pinto. He—"

"But Anne?—Where's Anne?" cried the man hoarsely.

"She went for Mrs. Pratt and the new baby," spoke up the little girl. "She went soon as we saw the fire. Brother thought it was the sunset. He said—"

Nancy stopped short. Her father was not listening. He had set the surprised child upon her feet, and was leaning against the door-frame, his eyes half closed. There was no color in his face—no color at all; and his teeth caught at his lower lip so hard that a drop of blood was trickling slowly, unheeded down his chin. Frightened, fascinated, Nancy watched it—never to forget that drop of blood...

"Buck up, old man!"

Tim O'Day hobbled nearer to him. His arm went firmly about Roddy's shoulders. "Buck up, I say! I—I been thinkin', Roddy. If Anne and Sue rode south they had a chance. Anne's got a head on her, man. She's see they'd be cut off this way, and start south most likely. They'd ha' made Browns' ranch. O' course they would! Don't cry, Nancy child. Ten to one yer mother's safe at Browns' by now. Come, Roddy, buck up! The child needs you."

Roddy stooped, gathering the small girl close again. "There, daughter, don't cry. Tim's right. Mother would have gone south—to Browns'. Give me a fresh horse, Tim, and I'll be off. If—"

"Roddy St. George," broke in the

Irishwoman, "you must eat first. Any-one with half an eye could see that you're all but done for. If Anne's at Browns' she'll stay the night, most likely. I'll get you some supper, and catch a horse while you're eatin'."

Already she was opening the stove drafts—moving the kettle forward; but Roddy, still holding the frightened Nancy, shook his head.

"I couldn't eat, Molly. I couldn't swallow." And turning to the child: "Don't worry, little girl. I'll go for mother; and you must go to bed. That's what mother would say, isn't it?"

"But—is—is she safe, daddy?"

A sob that tore the father's heart broke from her lips. He answered gently—honestly: "We've got to think so, Nancy, until we—know." Then to the Irishman: "What horse will take me fastest, Tim? The big bay, or—"

HE stopped, wheeled suddenly about, startled. The door was opening, slowly, as if pushed back with great effort; and framed by that black square of darkness stood a woman—a strange wild figure whose hair hung loose about a face smooched grey with cinders—whose red-rimmed eyelids blinked as if the lamplight blinded her. The gathers of her long, full skirt had come apart, so that it fell unevenly about her feet; and a bare white shoulder showed through the torn sleeve. Her voice was weak and breathless as she said huskily: "Are—are the children here? Tell me the worst, Molly. Are they here?"

"Anne!" cried out Roddy. "Anne! Anne!"

For just a moment he had not known this spent and tattered creature; but it was he who caught her as she wavered, and laid her down on Molly's worn old sofa.

She dragged her eyelids open. "The— the children—"

"Both safe," Roddy broke in, his voice almost as shaken as her own. "Where have you been, Anne? How did you—"

"Hush, Roddy! Have you no sense?" demanded Molly, bringing a warm drink.

Anne drank, her tired eyes closing as she leaned, exhausted, against Roddy's shoulder.

The older man drew near, staring down at a swollen bruise on her right temple. Anne did not speak; and Molly, bringing a wet cloth, washed the soot and grime from her face gently; while the little girl patted her mother's tumbled hair as if to comfort her. Anne stirred then, smiled.

"I—was in time," she murmured.

"She ought not talk," decreed the Irishwoman, sensibly; but Anne went on, after a moment:

"Sue didn't even know there was a fire! She'd been asleep. It looked—awfully near them."

She shuddered; but when Roddy would have made her rest, exclaimed, her voice suddenly stronger: "Let me go on, please, and then—forget it, if I can. We rode, south, Roddy. I saw after a mile that there'd be no hope the other way. We were cut off. I—I never saw a fire spread so fast, and—"

"There!" interrupted Tim, triumphantly. "What'd I tell you, man? Did you reach Browns', Anne?"

Anne nodded.

"Once I thought—I was sure we wouldn't make it. The wind was terrible. The baby cried, and Sue was so sick and terrified I feared she'd die before we could get—anywhere. Sam said—"

"Sam!" Tim exploded. "Where was Sam—lettin' you come off here by yourself after what you done for him? Answer me that."

Anne smiled a little at this belligerence.

"It wasn't Sam's fault, Tim. He reached the Browns' just as I was start-

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ing. He wanted to come, but Sue—she was out of her head—half crazy. She wouldn't believe the fire was out. She thought he'd be burned. She clung to him just like a frightened child, so—what could he do? What would you have done?"

There was a silence, both men pondering this question; then Anne went on: "I wasn't afraid; but Joe Brown was away—in Denver—and there was only a bronc for me to ride—one that wasn't very gentle. Sam didn't know that, Roddy. Mrs. Brown begged me to stay till morning, but I had to come. I had to find out about the children. I can't remember how far I'd gone when the horse threw me, but—"

A quick-drawn breath from Roddy—a stifled exclamation from Tim, while Anne continued: "I must have been stunned. When I came to the bronc was gone. I felt very faint, and for a time couldn't remember where I was; but after a while I struck the creek bed. It was easy then."

"Easy!" The echo was a sob on Roddy's lips.

"Once," breathed Anne, shivering, "I thought the fire had started up again; but it was only the moon! I was so—so glad to see it!" Then, after a moment of stillness came the dreaded question: "The—the house, Roddy?"

"Gone," replied Roddy, honestly. "It—it doesn't matter, Anne."

"No," agreed Anne. Her lips trembled a little, but her eyes met his stanchly. "It doesn't matter. That—that's all, I think."

"And it's enough, ain't it," burst from Tim O'Day, limping back to his chair. "Take it from me, Anne, you're one fine woman!" he said impulsively; and then, to hide emotion, he shouted at his wife: "Molly, don't stand there snivelin'! Mix us some coffee, woman. I feel like my stomach was cavin' in. And if here ain't Buster—woke out of a sound sleep by your gabblin'!"

It was the little boy, eyes heavy with interrupted slumber; but when he saw his father, memory came and he ran to him.

"We comed alone, daddy!" he exclaimed with pride. "Nancy and me comed all alone on Pinto! We rode ahead of the fire like Texas Jim. We felt cour—" He stopped abruptly, looking a bit shamefaced. "How is it we felt, Nancy? I can't 'member."

The elders smiled, while the small girl threw them a reproving glance.

"It's a new word," she exclaimed soberly. "It's a long word; that's why he can't remember. Do you know what c-o-u-r-a-g-e-o-u-s spells, daddy?"

"Yes," said her father, and looked down gravely into the child's face. He was thinking of all that Anne had been through since he rode away from her early that morning—of the blackened embers where they must start again—of the brave blue eyes that had met his own unflinching as she said, "It doesn't matter," and sudden, new-found strength born of her courage seemed to flow in upon him as he answered: "I think—I'm sure we can safely say that it spells—mother!"

A Dairyman's Problem as solved by



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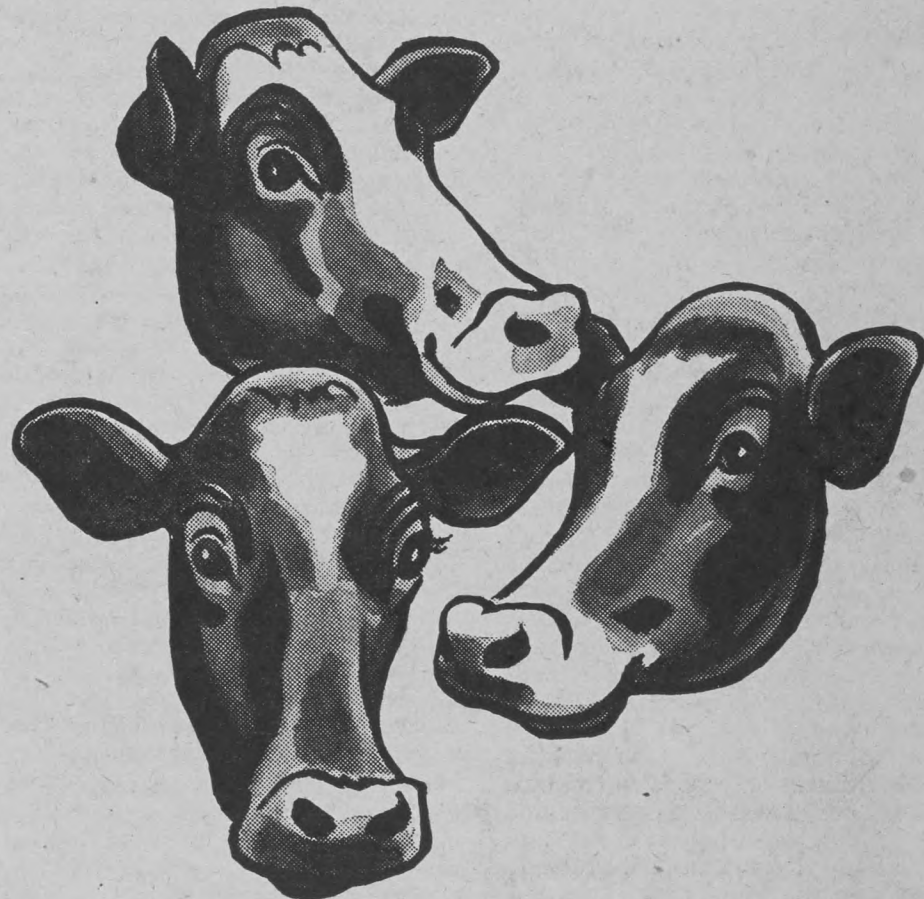
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Price Control and Other Control Problems

A page of Monthly Commentary furnished by United Grain Growers Ltd.

When Parliament assembles within a few weeks, one of the most interesting problems presented to it will relate to the continuation of price controls in Canada, many of which have already been relaxed or abandoned. This problem was referred to in the report of the Directors of United Grain Growers Limited presented to the recent annual meeting of the Company in Calgary. The concluding paragraphs to that report read as follows:

"The years immediately ahead will bring changes which will require adjustments both in the agricultural practices of farmers and in the agricultural policies of Canada. Changes and developments are now so rapid and so frequent, that it would be difficult to forecast far in advance what adjustments may be required to meet them. The most significant developments will be in the world political situation. If, as is earnestly to be hoped, these are such as to encourage the expectation of continuing peace in the world, we can look forward to an expanding world trade and to satisfactory conditions relating to the export of farm products. If, however, apprehensions of future war form the major concern of mankind, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to re-establish conditions for a prosperous world economy. The Canadian response to one set of conditions and the agricultural policies suited thereto will be quite different from those appropriate to another set of conditions.

"On the domestic scene perhaps the most important developments immediately ahead relate to the problem of continuing price controls. Already such controls in Canada have been relaxed to some considerable extent and doubts are beginning to be expressed as to the length of time it will be possible for the Government of Canada to continue such price controls as now exist, and these doubts are based upon both political and constitutional reasons. Farmers on the whole have submitted, since the beginning of the late war, to very rigorous controls affecting the prices of their products and the amount of their incomes. They recognized, during the war, an obligation to suffer both inconvenience and loss, if thereby they might strengthen the war policies of the Government. Since the end of the war, they have recognized such limitations as essential to any general policy of price control. But as controls governing prices of goods and services for which farmers must pay are relaxed, there will be greater reluctance on their part to accept such continuing limitations on their prices and incomes as now prevail. At this moment it is not possible to predict just when changes will come about, but some changes before very long are probably inevitable. It will remain a continuing duty of agricultural organizations and, in particular, of your own Company, to be alert with a view to protecting as fully as possible the interests of the farming people of western Canada."

It cannot be assumed that just because price control was reasonably successful in Canada for a number of years that it can be continued indefinitely along the same lines as pursued during the war. Popular support is necessary to make such control effective and such support cannot be counted on during this time to the same extent as during war years. The constitutional problem is almost equally important. War gave both the Parliament and the Government of Canada far greater powers than they can exercise during peace time. Under the War Measures Act Parliament gave, and was able to give,

the Government practically absolute powers over the economic life of the country. When the war ended, those powers were continued for a short time under the Emergency Powers Act, due to expire within a short time. Now there is in doubt the willingness of Parliament to extend such powers indefinitely. There is also in doubt the ability of Parliament to do so. The Constitution of Canada limits the powers of Parliament and only wars, or emergencies resulting from war, enable Parliament to over-step those limits.

The Wheat Board Act

If the Emergency Powers Act is not renewed, legislation will be required to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act. The Wheat Board has been exercising, by virtue of Orders in Council passed under the War Measures Act, powers much wider than those given to it by the Wheat Board Act of 1935. Legislation to continue it in a position of monopolistic control will be required, for only by such control can the present wheat policy of the Government be carried out, and the provisions of the British Wheat Agreement be fulfilled. Moreover the present policy, with its provision for pooling the returns from five successive crops, is contrary to the provisions of the Act which requires the Wheat Board to settle separately for each crop which it handles. In addition, the Act as it now stands provides that the initial price basis for No. 1 Northern Wheat shall be 90 cents a bushel. Subsequent increases to the present \$1.35 basis were made by Order in Council. To cover the two points just mentioned will be a matter of simple amendments to the Act, and although they may give rise to some controversy in Parliament, they present no constitutional difficulties.

It will be more difficult to provide by legislation for the monopolistic powers of the Wheat Board. Some lawyers, at least, hold that the Parliament of Canada has no authority to prevent anyone from selling his grain low and when he pleases. They concede, however, that there is power in the Dominion Parliament to control exports. If grain exports are forbidden, except under license from the Wheat Board, probably no one would want to buy wheat except from that body, and control of wheat could probably be established by law without too much difficulty.

The problem with respect to coarse grains is, somewhat different, since price ceilings prevail for oats and barley. Can these be maintained if other price ceilings generally disappear? If the Wheat Board were given the same control of these grains which it has over wheat, it could, of course, sell them for domestic consumption at whatever level of prices might be decided upon. But a large proportion of the oats and barley marketed is sold within Canada and it would not be as easy to control these grains by export license as is the case with wheat. Even export controls of oats and barley would be much more difficult to administer than those applying to wheat. It is not easy to get wheat into the United States, not only on account of the high duty of 42 cents per bushel, but also because there are severe quota restrictions on the quantity which can be imported. There are no such quotas on feed grains and the American duties are comparatively low. Over any long period it would not be easy to prevent Canadian farmers, living close to the boundary, from trucking grain to the United States if much higher prices prevail there. Indeed, it is reported that some flax is now be-

ing so disposed of. Reports from eastern Canada suggest that some western barley, bought by Quebec farmers at ceiling prices, and with the benefit of free freight rates, has been finding its way across the boundary.

There is a different situation with respect to flax, which for several years has been bought outright on a fixed price by the Dominion Government. The Government has lost money by reselling part of the flax at lower prices in Canada, and has made offsetting profits by exporting some flax to the United States, where much higher prices prevail. Such government action was originally planned to encourage flax production, by guaranteeing to farmers a higher price than might otherwise be obtainable. Now, in view of the very high prices for flax which prevail in the United States, which without control would be reflected in Canada, it has become part of the price control policy.

Non-Food Users of Wheat

The Canadian Wheat Board has recently issued instructions that no wheat or wheat products are to be used for distilling in Canada unless unfit for human consumption. That step, of course, has been taken to prevent such use of wheat from interfering with Canada's ability to meet this country's commitments to Great Britain and other countries urgently in need of food.

Before that step was taken, objections had been published to the fact that Canadian distillers had been able to buy wheat on the basis of the domestic milling price of \$1.25 per bushel. That was more than \$1.00 per bushel less than such wheat would bring if exported to non-contract countries. Corresponding to the situation which prevails in the distilling industry, the malting barley which goes into Canadian beer brings a price only of approximately one-half of what would be realized if it were exported. It has therefore been argued that Canadian farmers have been subsidizing the distilling and brewing industries of Canada. Perhaps another way of describing the situation would be to say that Canadian farmers, by selling their grain at low prices for Canadian distilling and brewing, are making it possible for the government to collect excise taxes at very high rates.

This ruling about distilling alcohol from wheat illustrates how greatly the situation has changed from that of a few years ago. The idea that industrial uses have to be found for agricultural products has, for the present at least, disappeared in the face of world-wide food shortages.

Something similar has taken place in respect to the use of wheat for livestock feeding. There was widespread satisfaction when, with wheat supplies plentiful, many thousand farmers on this continent discovered for the first time that wheat, if properly employed, was a useful and acceptable livestock feed. That development was particularly important in the United States where many farmers could be driven to make use of wheat only because corn, their favorite feed grain, was in short supply. Hundreds of millions of bushels of wheat were thus disposed of in North America. Now buyers of wheat in Great Britain and in Europe are very critical of the use of wheat for livestock feeding, and consider that it should be retained as far as possible for direct human consumption.

A BACKWARD LOOK

In another column there are quotations with reference to the future, from the recently published annual report of United Grain Growers Limited. It will be appropriate, therefore, to quote from the earlier part of the report a few paragraphs relating to the past, as follows:

"It also shows that the foundations of the Company were well laid by the pioneers who established it forty years ago, and by those, who, in 1917, brought about the amalgamation with the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company Ltd., which established United Grain Growers Limited under its present name and in its present form. Only a limited number of business institutions have reached such an age as this, and still fewer are the farmers' organizations with such a record. Indeed, even twenty years ago visitors used to come from the United States to enquire into this Company and seeking to learn why it had been more successful and enduring than many farmers' institutions founded south of the international border. Such examination showed then, as it would still show, that the shareholders of this Company had always been determined both that it should be operated for the benefit of farmers and also that it should be conducted on sound business principles.

"The forty years of this Company's history have included most of the period of the development of agriculture in western Canada. Founded by pioneers, the Company grew to keep pace with the growth of agriculture in the prairie provinces. Those years have also been the most important years in the history of all Canada. In fact, when world history is considered, there have been few periods of equal length that have included events of such vast significance as have these past forty years.

"A highly interesting story will be told when the impact of such events upon the history of Western agriculture can be traced, and the response of Western farmers to changing conditions is fully recorded. When future histories of western Canada are written, it will be found that the foundation of your Company, and its development, form an important part of the record. Already books by various economists and historians, to an impressive number, have dealt at length with the establishment of your Company, and the way in which its story is interwoven with the history of the West. Such matters are customarily treated by writers as among the important and significant developments of the time.

"Now, however, history is still so much in the making that little time can be accorded for surveys of the past. On this occasion we shall have to content ourselves with taking note of the fact that this Company was one of the earliest of farmers' organizations in western Canada, and began as an integral part of the farmers' movement which took form in the early years of the present century. It is recognized as the pioneer of agricultural co-operation in the prairie provinces, not only because of seniority in point of time, but also because it established the foundation on which many other co-operative institutions were subsequently built. The most recent testimony to that effect is to be found in the recent report of the Royal Commission on Co-operatives."

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NEIGHBORLY NEWS

Contributed by the Elevator Agents of
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Barley Club Prizewinners

Members of the Rimbey Barley Club entered their samples of Olli barley in a contest held at the Legion Hall. Judging was done by Mr. Allsop, field supervisor for the Lacombe district. Mr. Rigny, the new agriculturist, and Gordon Sterling, district agriculturist of Lacombe were also present.

Mr. Allsop, who formerly farmed at Wembley, has won world championships for both wheat and barley.

Prizes at Rimbey were awarded to Bessie Irwin, Charles Whitesell and Robert Whitesell, in that order. Winners for the standing crop, judged last summer, were Irma McCulloch, Alice McCulloch, and Robert Maynor.

The Rimbey grain club was organized in 1934 and has been in continuous operation since that time. Robert Whitesell is the president and Irma McCulloch is the secretary of the group.

* * *

Joe Lauf, of Wooddale, plowed up a pig pasture last year and sowed it to Thatcher wheat. The drill measured one and one-tenth acres and this fall he threshed 117 bushels of first grade wheat from the plot. The yield is machine measure. D. P. Adams did the threshing and claims that it weighed several pounds heavy per bushel. Just across the road from Mr. Lauf, Tony Kriz harvested 70 bushels per acre from a five-acre field of Thatcher wheat. R. G. Dentman reports that he obtained 100 bushels per acre from 40 acres sown to oats, all of which seems to add to "Wooddale is not a bad place to farm."—*Rimbey, Alta.*

Local U.G.G. Meeting

At the special meeting of the U.G.G. held in Vista Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Thompson gave all the members present a very interesting talk with reference to U.G.G. business.

Many farmers in the district have expressed their enjoyment of the company's radio broadcast.—*Vista, Man.*

Community Aids Farm

The community of Vilna has improved the future of this good mixed farming district. With the help of the department of agriculture, a Dairy Calf Club was organized in the spring of 1945 and 25 Holstein calves, of splendid quality were received. These were delivered to the boys and girls who are members of this club, and who reside on the farms adjoining the Village of Vilna.

At the field day held last summer these calves were a prominent feature of the show. The sum of \$98 was distributed in prizes for the highest quality calves. This money was donated by the department of agriculture, Holstein Association, and from various businessmen of this village, who are interested in the welfare of this district.

In 1946, 23 more calves were distributed to the same members as well as to some new ones. The field day for 1947 promises to be a great success when the two-year-olds and the calves will be entered in such competition, and through it the whole district will benefit in years to come.

The U.G.G. agent at Vilna has had the satisfaction of managing the club with the aid of the department of agriculture and their local representative. He reports enthusiastically on the keen interest shown in the work by our juniors.—*Vilna, Alta.*

Hospital By-law Acclaimed

The citizens of McCreary and district went to the polls recently to vote on a money by-law for the hospital to be built in McCreary under the Manitoba Health Scheme. The people expressed their appreciation of the value of such an institution in the area in no uncertain terms by a favorable vote of over 90 per cent in favor; the vote being 352 for the by-law and 31 against. We are hoping the construction of the hospital may be commenced in 1947.—*McCreary, Man.*

Local Red Cross Meet

At the annual meeting of the Lady Lake Red Cross it was announced that the branch had sent in over \$300 this year and that an additional \$50 was sent to the Crippled Children's Hospital.—*Lady Lake, Sask.*



Pictures of Farm Progress

At right is shown a snapshot of H. C. Gray's wheat field, taken this fall, which yielded 49 bushels per acre. Mr. Gray is well-known locally as a progressive farmer. He farms three-quarters of a section with a Ferguson tractor and also feeds a lot of stock through the winter months.

The picture of tomatoes shows the yield of a single branch of Chatham tomatoes garden-grown in Kenville.

D. A. Thoms, our barley contest contestant is shown in the snapshot at left on his tractor preparing his land for next year's crop. Mr. Thoms is a returned veteran and an excellent farmer. He owns a Case tractor and has one-half section.

These pictures of farm progress show that the Kenville district is alert to modern farming requirements and putting them into practice.—*Kenville, Man.*

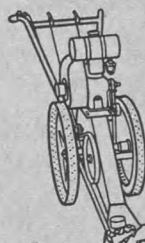
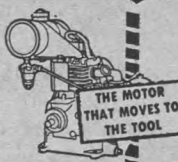
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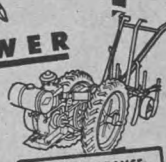
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CORRECTION

There appeared in the November issue of The Country Guide, two advertisements for the Osmose Wood Preserving Co. of Canada Ltd.—"PENTOX" on page 36 and "OSMOSE FENCE POST MIXTURE" on page 41.

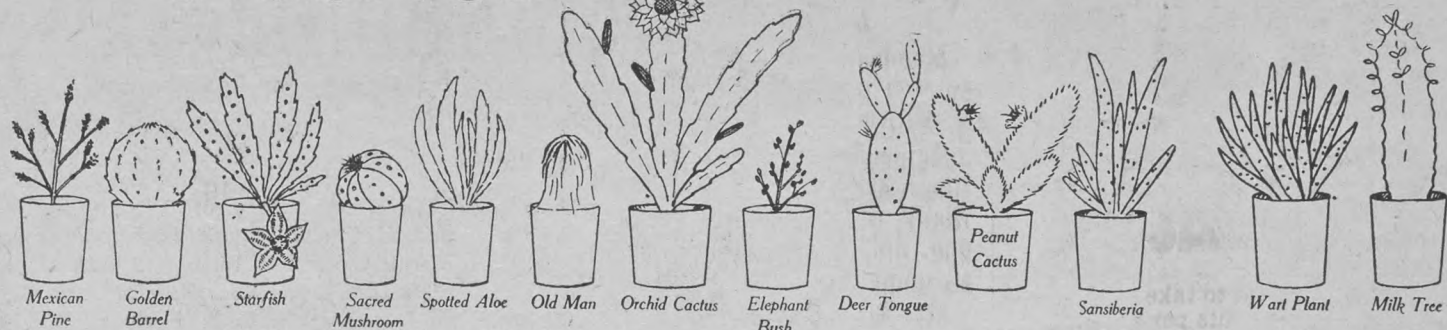
Unfortunately, due to an error in The Country Guide's mechanical department, the prices of these products were interchanged and PENTOX was shown at \$3.95 gallon and OSMOSE FENCE POST MIXTURE at \$3.20 gallon.

The Country Guide wishes to apologize for any inconvenience caused Osmose dealers or customers as a result of this error and list below the correct prices as they should have appeared in these advertisements.

PENTOX—\$3.20 gallon; .85 quart.
OSMOSE FENCE POST MIXTURE—\$3.95 gallon.

THE COUNTRY GUIDE

CACTUS FOR THE WINDOW



COLLECTING cactus and succulent plants is an interesting hobby, daily gaining new enthusiasts among window-sill gardeners everywhere. Succulents are so named because of their thick, succulent or water-storing leaves which have been developed to tide them over the long periods of drought in the deserts. All cacti are succulent too, but they are not called "succulents."

They come in all sizes, from the diminutive strawberry cactus the size of a little button, to the giant Saguaro cactus of Arizona that weighs tons and towers like a skyscraper, with almost any size in between. They are quite as varied in form as well, with each genus adding something in shape, coloring and habits of growth.

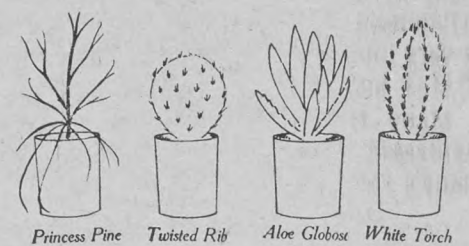
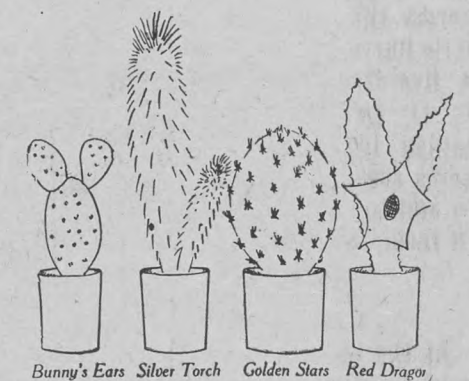
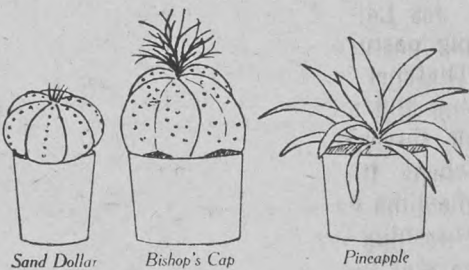
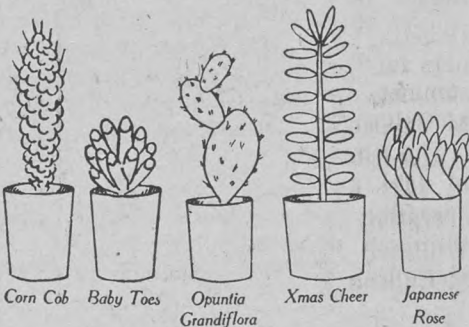
The inexperienced are always under the impression a cactus must have vicious spines. While this is true of many of them, these need not be included in a collection as there are hundreds of varieties with no spines at all or with weak spines that are harmless and soft to touch. The pin cushion types, numbering over 200 species, are in this class and besides the ease with which they may be handled one has an additional bonus in their charming flowers, borne in a circle around the crown, always being followed by edible red fruit somewhat like the wild strawberry in flavor.

The "Old Men" and "Old Women" types have long, tangled white or grey hair completely covering the plants from top to bottom. The snowball and powder puff have fuzzy, cottony hair, while the feather cactus appears as though smothered in feathers. The ribbon and paper-spine have long, parchment-white papery ribbons growing from each tubercle, and the button cactus is covered with a heavy felt of wool. Other prized collectors' items have silver or gold hair-like bristles with a few longer bright red ones scattered among them, the columnar silver torch, and the golden ball, a unique gem heavily covered with brightest gold hair.

Very free blooming cacti and absolutely without spines are the bright blue mushroom cactus, the five-ribbed bishop's cap with microscopic tufts of hair making the plant body appear almost white, and the sand dollar, rather low and flat on top and always divided into several sections like a pie.

True Christmas plants with their bright red bells are the "air plants," noted for their habit of growing numerous plantlets along the margins of the leaves which take root wherever they fall, quickly forming new plants. The tiger jaws, with bright yellow blossoms in the fall and winter, is an easily grown succulent with its thick leaves in two opposite rows having long harmless teeth along the edges.

Some fascinating oddities for winter By G. F. MARRINER



The Echeverias, named after a noted Mexican botanical artist, are widely different in form and color and are commonly called "hen and chicks." Some of them are pale green, almost white, compact rosettes like a cluster of little cabbages; while others are shrubby trees with beautiful foliage, thick leaves often heavily plushed, velvety to the touch and edged with red. The flowers of all Echeverias are long lasting and make good cut flowers. The rat tail, peanut and snake cactus are favorites in window gardens everywhere and are too well known to require description.

Mexico and the tropical countries are particularly rich in these plants but every continent can be represented in your window garden. From South Africa come the fascinating "windowed" and "mimicry" plants, and these are fine examples of how nature takes care of her own. Among the mimicry plants

are the living rocks, flowering stones and stone faces which have so completely taken on the protective coloring and shapes of the surrounding rocks as to be visible only when crowned with their large, bright flowers. This protective coloring helps them in their struggle for existence as the ostriches and baboons are fond of them and devour them in great numbers.

The intriguing windowed plants have transparent tips on the leaves, allowing entry of the filtered sunlight to nourish the tissues, and through which the inside of the plant may be seen. The "baby toes" belong to this group of plants, each little toe-shaped leaf being tipped with a transparent "window."

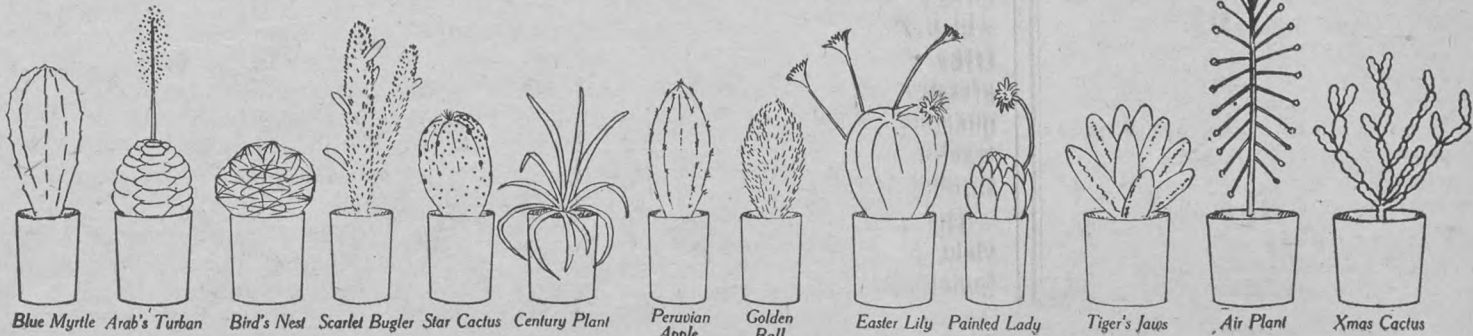
The aloes, known in Biblical times, are a group of over 200 species and are also native to South Africa. Many of them are of medical value and one of them, the "spotted aloe," is used to heal burns, especially radium and X-ray burns. One of this group, the well-known partridge breast, is a treasured house plant in thousands of homes in this country. It is said that if a large plant is suspended in the air without soil or water it will bloom every year for three years before it finally dies.

Euphorbias, too, are African succulents and one of them, the popular "crown of thorns" is the one most often seen in collections. It is a superb house plant, seldom out of bloom, and living for many years with a minimum of care. Like all euphorbias the stems exude a milk-like juice when cut or pricked. Here, too, may be found the fascinating starfish flowers, with slender finger-like stems and blooms up to eighteen inches across.

The moist jungles of Brazil are famous as the home of epiphytic plants, meaning that they grow up in the trees in the pockets of dirt lodged there, where they enjoy a free circulation of air and are shaded from too strong sunlight. Among these plants are the bromeliads, rice cactus, Christmas cactus, the gorgeous night blooming cereus with long, slender stems and the largest blooms in the cactus family with blossoms the size of a dishpan; and the orchid cactus with its long, strap-shaped leaves producing huge flowers along each node, in every color in the rainbow, and very often deliciously fragrant. To induce flowering, it is best that nature, to some extent at least, be imitated. For these reasons these plants are greatly benefited by spending the summer out under the shade of a tree where they will be shaded from the sun during the hottest part of the day.

Cacti and succulents do best in a light porous soil from which the water drains away quickly as they do not like "wet feet." Use one part good

Turn to page 53



THE DALLAS HEART

Continued from page 6

"Remember, it's half yours," Jerry continued, taking my hand. "Judge Dallas left it to your mother and mine, and Uncle Abner stole it. He had no right to it, but it was worth a fortune, and he couldn't keep his hands off it."

How I wished he would explain what the Dallas Heart really was. I was beginning to think it was some sort of priceless jewel, but the name puzzled me. I didn't like to betray my ignorance by asking.

"You must remember, Jerry," I said, "that I was young, very young, when mother left Wildwood, and I've never been back."

"That's so, Nancy! I'd forgotten, poor girl. I'm sorry for you."

With that he put an arm around my waist and drew me nearer in the dark. Perhaps it was a cousinly kiss he gave me, but it tingled and started all sorts of emotions in my breast.

I pushed him away; but he only laughed lightly.

"Well, come, we must begin the search," he added. "But what's that?"

There was a peculiar grating noise as if someone were pushing aside sliding doors or dragging a heavy weight over the floor above. Jerry paused, all his laughter gone.

"If Uncle Abner isn't really dead," he muttered, "we won't have much of a chance to find it."

"How could he be dead if he isn't in the library?" I asked tremulously.

"It is a mystery," he breathed softly. "I don't know what to think of it. But"—half angrily—"I won't be frightened! Dead or alive, he's got to disgorge. That's what I came to Swamp Hollow for. Now we'll begin in his bedroom. I know where it is—on the next floor."

He produced a flashlight and flashed its rays ahead of us. We were in the hall, a big, square, old-fashioned hall, with the front door on one side and a winding stairway on the other. It was so cold and drafty that I shivered.

Jerry was familiar with the place from childhood, and he began ascending the steps, with me close behind him.

"We'll get away from that dining room," he remarked, trying to comfort me. "It was a bit gruesome, with Uncle dead on the floor."

"But if he's gone," I whispered, "we may find him somewhere else—in his bedroom, maybe."

He paused again at this.

"I hadn't thought of that. Well," grimly, "if he's dead he can't hurt us, and if he's alive he's still an old, feeble man. I don't think we need to worry."

Nevertheless, he was constantly watchful and on his guard as if expecting to meet someone. On the upper landing he stopped long enough to look around him.

His light flashed on a mammoth oil painting at one side, and when he saw me watching it he explained:

"It's Uncle Abner! You remember it?"

No, I didn't remember it, but the face was one not easily to be forgotten. It was that of a middle-aged man with dark, brooding eyes, a high forehead, thick lips, and a square chin. Greed was stamped on every feature. It was a hard face, and I could imagine the heart of flint which went with it.

"That was painted before he stole the Dallas fortune," Jerry went on. "He was half-way decent up to that time. After that he was a devil. He broke my mother's heart and drove yours away into exile."

"Of course it was all untrue, Nancy, about your father being a thief and drunkard. But Uncle Abner made the story sound so plausible that every-

body believed it. He would have been lodged in jail if he hadn't fled with your mother, taking you with them."

NANCY'S ignorance of the real trouble was made clear to me now. She hadn't told me all the history of the family feud because her mother had withheld it from her out of a sense of pride or reticence.

"And Aunt Betty?" I breathed in a whisper.

Jerry's face grew as hard and flinty as that of the oil portrait before us.

"You know about that, don't you?" he said in a troubled voice. "Or were you too young?"

"I was too young to understand, Jerry," I ventured, hoping to get the details from him.

"Then I'll tell you so that, even if I did come here with murder in my heart, you'll know I had some justification."

He paused, holding his breath, while we both stared at the painting on the wall.

"He ruined mother's life by false scandal," he said in a hard voice. "Oh, he was a past-master at that. He could scheme and plan, and then at the right moment strike."

"Mother was high-spirited, and she accused him of lying and betraying her to the scandal-mongers of the village. But what did he care? He mocked and laughed at her."

I pressed his hand gently in sympathy when he paused.

"Poor, dear Aunt Betty!" I murmured.

He sighed, and then went on.

"She demanded her share of the estate. She wanted to leave Wildwood forever; but he would give her nothing. Everything was in his hands—even the Dallas Heart!"

"Yes? And she didn't get that?" I encouraged.

A smile of triumph came into the upturned face.

"Yes, she got it out of his safe and fled with it. It belonged to her—or half of it did. It wasn't stealing. She fled through the swamp with me, and—"

He stopped again to wipe from his forehead the perspiration which unpleasant memories had caused to settle there.

"I was only a kid then," he added in a whisper. "I didn't know what it was all about. I got my first unpleasant impression of Uncle Abner that day."

"He discovered the loss of the Dallas Heart before mother could get out of the swamp. He pursued and overtook us near the pool where I found you. He accused mother of the theft, and she was too proud to deny it."

"Then—then—they struggled, and Uncle Abner got it away from her."

I SIGHED in sympathy for the boy and mother of long ago, as well as for the man by my side.

"After that," he resumed gently, "mother lost heart. Because of the scandal Uncle had started in Wildwood she would never go out. She brooded at Swamp Hollow or wandered around alone in the swamp. Sometimes she took me with her, and again she would go alone."

"As I recall it now she was a broken-hearted woman. And then one day—one day—she was missing."

I caught his arm, shivering slightly with apprehension. He was quiet for so long that I wondered if he had forgotten that his story was left unfinished.

"You found her?" I asked.

"Yes—her body—floating in the pool where we met."

"Oh!" I gasped, drawing back and shuddering.

"Dear mother," he continued, speaking more to himself than to me, "nobody ever knew whether it was an accident or the act of a broken-hearted, discouraged woman."



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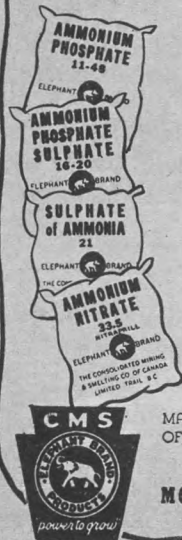
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"Let us think it was an accident, Jerry," I said gently.

"Yes, I've always tried to think so. I won't think anything else! Mother was proud and high-spirited, and not a coward. She would never have taken her life. She had me to live for."

I nodded gravely, and then asked: "And you, Jerry? Did you continue to live on at Swamp Hollow?"

"Yes, and for a time Uncle Abner was kind to me. Mother's death upset him, I fancy, and he tried to make amends by treating me decently.

"But it didn't last. As he grew older he changed. He followed me around, browbeat me, treated me as if I were something alien. And in the end I learned to hate him. It lasted for years, and then when I was old enough I ran away.

"The rest," he added, smiling grimly, "is another story. But hard as life was to me it was pleasanter than it would have been living here."

When he stopped we stood side by side looking up at the picture—Jerry with brooding eyes and I with strange absorption and curiosity.

Looking down at us, as if he had been listening to our conversation, Uncle Abner of the portrait seemed alive and conscious of our presence. As in all oil paintings, the eyes seemed to follow us with a life-like stare that was disquieting.

Then, suddenly, the picture quivered, and with a little scream I drew back.

JERRY started and looked at me with alarm in his eyes, and when he saw how white and frightened I was he took my hand.

"What is it, Nancy?" he asked gently. "Did the story upset you? I shouldn't have told you such a gruesome tale on a night like this."

"No! No!" I cried. "It was the picture!"

"The picture! Oh, Uncle Abner's eyes frightened you!"

He smiled grimly, and added: "Well, it wouldn't be the first time they had frightened a person. But . . ."

I caught his hand in both of mine.

"It moved, Jerry!" I cried, shivering. "The picture moved! I saw it!"

He started and glanced up at the oil portrait, flashed the electric torch up and down it, and then half pityingly turned to me.

"Whatever Uncle Abner's malignant power may have been in real life, Nancy," he said smilingly, "I don't think he could make his picture move. You're excited and unnerved. We'll go and not look at it any more."

His words seemed reassuring, and I tried to make myself believe I had been deceived. It might have been the wind that had agitated the canvas.

The frame itself was of massive size, and was set in the wall as a permanent fixture. That certainly could not have been moved by the wind.

I gave it one last, shuddering glance and followed Jerry through a door into another room. This had been Abner Longwood's bed-chamber for nearly half a century.

It was a room of generous size like all the others in the house, but it had a dead, musty odor that was not pleasant, I halted on the threshold, dreading to enter, but Jerry crossed to a big desk and opened it, rummaging around in the drawers and pigeon-holes.

"Never can tell where Uncle Abner would keep such a priceless thing as the Dallas Heart," he said. "But I'll ransack everything in here first, and then try another room."

He stopped and glanced at his watch.

"A little after midnight," he murmured. "We've got several hours before morning."

I had lost interest in the search, and I'm afraid I didn't prove a very helpful confederate; but Jerry proceeded

with systematic swiftness to go through everything, and in a short time he had finished the bed-chamber.

"It isn't here!" he said in a voice of disappointment. "Not unless he has a wall safe," he added, glancing eagerly around.

There was apparently no wall safe, and he finally gave it up.

Ransacking a big house like Swamp Hollow was no simple matter, for besides the number and size of the rooms it was stored with an immense amount of old truck, accumulated through the years and left undisturbed by the owner.

Many times Jerry was discouraged and paused to shake his head. But a new and likely hiding place would occur to him and he would renew his search with enthusiasm.

I KEPT close to his side. I wouldn't let him get more than a few feet away. The horror of the place frightened me. I knew that somewhere Uncle Abner might be lurking around, either dead or alive, and I didn't know in which state I dreaded to meet him most.

I was surprised that Jerry had taken the disappearance of the corpse so lightly. The mystery had not been explained, and at times I stared at him in wonder. How could he go on calmly searching the house when he knew that somewhere around the body of his dead uncle was concealed?

Once I asked him: "Jerry, we must find Uncle Abner! If he didn't crawl away somebody else must—must be in the house."

He started and stared at me.

"Why do you say that? Have you seen anyone?"

"No, but that face I saw and the eyes . . ."

"You said they were Uncle Abner's."

"Yes, but I may have been mistaken. I was greatly excited."

"Guess you were, but I don't believe anyone else is in the house."

"Then where is Uncle Abner?" I cried sharply.

"Look here, Nancy," he replied, taking a seat on a pile of stuff he had overhauled, "don't let your nerves get the better of you. Nothing's going to happen. See, I'm armed."

He exhibited a small automatic and held it toward me.

"I can defend myself. Uncle was stone dead when I examined him. I'm sure of that. But when I went back into the dining room he was gone. There was the pool of blood to show he'd been killed, but that was all.

"Now the rest I can't explain. Either Uncle Abner wasn't dead and crawled away, or another helped him or dragged his body away, or—or something like a miracle happened. You can take your choice."

"But why don't you look for him?" I demanded.

He grinned and nodded his head.

"I am! I'm searching the house for him as much as I am for that Dallas Heart. But I didn't like to tell you so. I thought it would frighten you."

It did add to my fear, but at the same time it made things plainer and thus easier for me. Thereafter, every time he opened a closet or pulled off a mattress from a bed or looked in a dark corner I hung back in a fever of trepidation, expecting to see him find the dead body we had left in the dining room.

"It's a big mystery," I heard him mutter more than once. "There's something uncanny about it, but I'll find the explanation of it."

I was even less of a help in finding the corpse than in searching for the Dallas Heart, and I hung back more and more. Finally, after going over nearly every part of the house, Jerry paused in the upper hall to wipe the perspiration from his forehead.

"I've been everywhere except in the cellar and the tower-room," he said. "I think I'll try the latter next."

There was a short flight of stairs leading up to a huge tower that surmounted the top of the house, and when Jerry opened the door I felt a sharp blast of cold air strike me. I stepped back, for with the blast of wind came a dreadful moan and shriek.

"It's nothing but the wind," he assured me. "The skylight's broken and the wind comes through it. You stay below. I won't be gone long. It's a small room, and it's cold and wet up there."

"Don't leave me!" I pleaded.

"It's only for a few minutes. Don't be afraid, Nancy."

I stood in a dismal blue funk while he climbed the stairs. He was flashing the light ahead of him so that I could see the upper part of the stairway, but the part nearest me grew darker and darker as he ascended.

I didn't want to display my weakness any more than I had already done, and I struggled mightily to control myself, though I was shivering and gulping and clapping and unclapping my hands.

Once I was impelled by an unreasonable sense of fear to rush pell-mell after him. But I knew that if I gave way to the feeling I would become a gibbering idiot. I bit my lip until the blood was drawn to check my panic.

WHEN Jerry reached the top of the stairs and turned a corner to enter the tower, I was left in total darkness. Even the occasional flash of his light was now denied me.

A cold sweat broke out on my forehead. I could not have followed now if I had wanted to without stumbling blindly through the opaque darkness.

I had been standing a few feet away from the door, and I clutched at it now for support. But in the darkness my hands missed it.

I took a step forward, but the door was not there. I had missed it in some way, and in the darkness I had become turned around.

A new terror seized me. I had to find the door and the stairs. I stumbled forward, this way and that, but my hands touched nothing but empty air.

Nothing is so disquieting to the mind in the dark as the feeling that you have lost your bearings. Deep, yawning pitfalls seem to rise up before you, and you dare not move for fear of falling in.

That was exactly my condition. I knew that I was in the upper hall, but that was all. I had no way of measuring the distance I had traversed, and the fear that I might be near the head of the main stairway, and that a false step might carry me over it, checked further progress. I stood perfectly still, hoping and praying that Jerry would soon finish his search of the tower-room and return to me.

I was as quiet as a mouse, scarcely breathing, but with eyes and ears alert to any sound. The great silence of the hall contrasted eerily with the banging and creaking of outside blinds and clapboards.

Now and then a step would squeak or a beam groan as the whole house vibrated under the force of the wind. Each time I started and clutched at my heart with both hands.

Would Jerry never come? How long could I endure the terrible suspense? If a mouse had crossed my path at that moment I could not have jumped or shrieked, so paralyzed was I with dread of the unknown.

That is why, when the uncanny thing happened, that I did not call Jerry's name or turn and run. I was in a cataleptic state, seeing and hearing everything, but unable to move a muscle. No one struggling in a hideous nightmare could have suffered worse mental and physical torture.

The terrifying phenomena that had

startled me began by the appearance of a soft subdued light, which at first I thought was an optical illusion. But as it persisted and grew in power I knew it was a reality.

It was directly in front of me, a few feet above my head. If I had reached out I could almost have touched it.

It was not simply a white light, nor entirely a red light; it had all the prismatic colors of the rainbow, but not blended and arranged as in the prism. Darker lines crossed and criss-crossed the lighter shades in the most irregular and haphazard way.

Emerging from the blank wall of darkness, it seemed to have a supernatural origin. I stared at it, fascinated and curious as well as horrified. Stronger and stronger it grew until its glow reflected on my face and threw the hall into partial light.

It had been vague and formless at first, a colored light without meaning. But now it began to assume definite shape. The darker lines ran into each other, leaving the lighter ones merely for the background. Two circles particularly held my startled gaze. These grew larger and stronger until they began to resemble human eyes.

Then memory of the face that had appeared to me in the library, emerging from the black surroundings as if by magic, gave me a distinct jolt. Was that same face coming again to terrify and threaten me?

I watched the eyes as they appeared, then the nose, the mouth, the forehead, the chin and the hair, until the face was complete, all cast in a dim glow as if a light were shining from behind.

Suddenly the light became sharper and clearer, casting a path of light clear across the hall. It revealed to me my surroundings with startling clearness.

I was standing before the oil portrait of Abner Longwood, gazing up at the hard, flinty face and eyes! The whole picture stood out in sharp relief.

To my dazed mind a certain relief came. It was not the face I had seen before, but that of the oil painting. In some strange, miraculous manner it had been lighted up either by a reflected light or one from behind it.

It must have been the latter, for there was no other light in the hall. Every part of it was cast in deep gloom except the spot where the shadows were lifted a little by the reflection from the picture.

It was a miracle, an uncanny demonstration of the supernatural. The portrait had lighted up so that every feature was clear and distinct.

The effect on me was to deepen my superstitious fear. I could not explain the mystery, except that in some amazing way a light had appeared from behind the canvas, slowly illumining the features until they glowed with life-like clearness. The darker lines that had seemed so irregular and haphazard had fallen into shape, no longer vague or uncertain.

The artist's paint had resisted or reflected the light at first, according to the density of the pigment. But now, like a picture puzzle, the lines had all fallen into position, revealing the oil portrait of Abner Longwood.

I stood looking up at it with frightened and fascinated eyes, vaguely wondering how it had happened, when suddenly it began to move. The whole portrait was stepping out of the frame toward me!

I think that then I uttered a muffled cry, or at least it seemed so to me. But apparently it was like the stifled scream of a cataleptic patient.

Slowly but steadily the portrait moved toward me, and instead of running or calling Jerry I stood in helpless silence watching it. I knew I ought to scream, but for the life of me I could not. I had lost all control of my voice and limbs.

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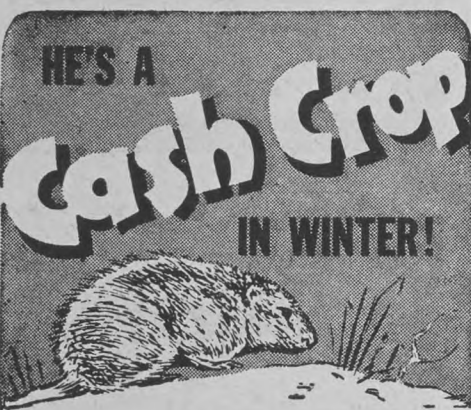
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The huge oil portrait, at least six by ten feet, came within a foot of my face, and then it slowly moved to my left. A sharp ray of light came from one side, revealing a space between the frame and the wall.

Even to my bewildered senses a swift explanation of the phenomenon came to me.

The picture had simply swung to one side noiselessly as if its hinges were freshly oiled, and not, as I first had thought, straight toward me.

The next moment a dazzling ray of light hit me squarely in the face. It came from an electric torch which had supplied the light which had come from behind the picture and made it glow with such uncanny beauty.

I was blinded for a moment and had to close my eyes. When I opened them again the light was still there, but behind it I began to make out the dim outlines of a face and figure.

Was the figure alive, or was it another supernatural phenomenon? There came a distinct grunt, and then I knew that it was not a spirit or ghost.

It was Abner Longwood in flesh and blood, standing in a hole in the wall that the portrait had cleverly concealed, holding in one hand the electric torch, and in the other a knife. He was staring at me with baleful, wicked eyes.

But there was surprise and fear in them also. My appearance had startled him almost as much as the whole thing had amazed and terrified me.

Recognition of him proved the one thing needful to arouse me from my trance. I found my voice and screamed.

"Jerry! Jerry!" I cried, and fell forward almost in a swoon.

SWOONING would have been a great relief to my highly tortured nerves, but no such deliverance came to me.

I simply fell forward and struck my head on the sharp edge of the huge picture frame and this, instead of bringing insensibility, irritated and aroused me. The acute pain of the fall served to banish some of my fear.

Before I could recover my balance and spring back, the menacing figure gave vent to a noise that was more of a snarl than a grunt and, with wonderful strength and agility for one so old, he snatched at my arms and pulled me upright.

I recoiled, striking back at him, for I was not entirely sure yet whether it was Abner Longwood in flesh and blood or his spirit, and I tried desperately to free myself from his clutch.

At the same time I renewed my screaming, calling Jerry from the tower with all the power and strength I could command. The echoes of my voice filled the hall and went booming up and down the stairway.

I knew Jerry would hear me. Apparently Abner Longwood thought so too, for he clapped a hand over my mouth and told me to shut up.

He spoke like a man of flesh and blood and not like a spirit. This stimulated me to fight the harder, and I had all but broken away from his grasp when my foot slipped and I lost my balance.

Then it was that I heard Jerry call: "Nancy! What is it? I'm coming!"

What a blessed relief it was to hear his voice! No sweeter sound had ever reached my ears. He was coming to my assistance, although from the muffled voice I judged he was far away, and the flash of his light had not yet appeared on the stairs.

My assailant was for an instant torn by doubt, for he leaped back into the hole in the wall and started to slide the mammoth picture back in place, and then he paused, glaring down at me.

"Coming, Nancy!" I heard Jerry shout, his voice nearer.

The effect of his call was electrical on old Abner Longwood. With a snarl of rage and fear he jumped out of the opening in the wall and seized me in his arms.

He lifted me as easily as if I had been a child. I was startled by the tremendous physical strength he showed. Even a much younger man might well have been proud of this feat.

He swung me easily over his head and thrust me into the opening. Then, leaping after me, he touched either a spring or a knob, and the huge, framed portrait closed noiselessly, shutting out all view of the hall.

"Nancy! Nancy!"

I heard Jerry shouting, and I knew he was on the stairs coming down.

I tried to answer him, but a hand clutched at my throat and another over my mouth. I gurgled and fought in the dark, but I was no match for my assailant.

He didn't choke me into insensibility, but he paralyzed my vocal chords and made me too weak and helpless to resist. I lay there limp and faint.

I could hear the muffled cries of Jerry calling my name repeatedly, but I was powerless to answer. One moment he came so near the picture that I could have thrust a hand through the canvas and touched him; then he drew away, and I could hear him descending the broad stairs in a frantic search for me.

There was fear and apprehension in his voice now.

"Nancy, dear, why don't you answer me?" he pleaded. "Tell me where you are! Shout to me! Call!"

It was pitiful to listen to his growing terror and not to be able to respond. The hand on my throat tightened every time I moved or tried to use my voice.

Finally, unable to stand the unequal combat, I sank back and gave up the struggle. Even then the hand kept a firm grip on my throat as if the owner distrusted my sudden collapse.

JERRY'S voice sounded fainter and fainter. Having failed to find me in the upper hall, he had descended to the first floor and was now frantically searching the dining room and library for me.

When his voice became so indistinct that it sounded little louder than a whisper, my assailant stirred himself, relaxing his hold on my throat.

I thought he was relenting, and I lay perfectly still, feigning unconsciousness; but I was rudely awakened from my dream a moment later.

He had been fashioning a rude gag out of his handkerchief and a part of my skirt. The next moment it was thrust into my mouth and securely tied back of my head.

I fought furiously against this outrage, but without avail, I had not the physical strength to resist him.

Having securely gagged me, he picked me up in his arms and half dragged and half carried me down a narrow corridor between two walls. In a short time he snapped on his electric torch, and I could see by its flash dirty, dusty panels on either side.

It was a secret hiding place built in the house at some early period, with one exit into the upper hall through the opening behind the massive picture frame. The other end was still a mystery to me. I vaguely wondered where it led.

I had the use of my eyes and ears if not my voice, and I used them with good effect.

Jerry's voice had now died away completely. I wondered if the walls were muffling it or if he were searching for me in some distant part of the house. Rage and indignation at my captor now dominated everything else, and I was less frightened than at any previous time.

I wanted to lash out with my tongue

—to tear at his eyes and hair—to kick and bite, if necessary—to punish him in true woman fashion for daring such an outrage; but with the suffocation that came from the unclean rag in my mouth I was helpless as well as speechless.

I was conscious finally of being carried down a narrow, winding stairs through a well-like inclosure that barely admitted of our passage. The sickening sensation of going down a spiral stairway that led to some unknown place aroused my fears again.

I thought of subterranean rooms and prisons, of dark tunnels that might end in the swamp, of gruesome burial places under the cellar.

I struggled mightily to free myself until he turned on me and snarled.

"Be still! You can't get away."

I wanted to speak, but I couldn't. He held me by the arms so I could not tear the gag from my mouth.

We came finally to the end of the spiral stairs into a small room without windows or doors, except the one that guarded our entrance. The man closed and locked this.

Then he dropped me unceremoniously on a hard couch and ripped the gag from my mouth.

"If you keep quiet this will stay out," he warned. "The first noise from you, back it goes."

I glared hard at him. I was unable, however, to make out his features until he lit a smoky oil lamp that swung from a side bracket on the wall.

One glance at the hard, weazened face, surmounted by a shock of thin white hair, and I knew my first impression had been correct. It was Abner Longwood, the living replica of the portrait in the massive gold frame.

But there was no sign of blood on him; no indication that he had been stabbed or very recently near to death's door. The discovery bewildered me.

Had the man a miraculous life? Had he the power to rise after death and assume his physical shape again?

The room was so small that one could hardly pass the foot of the couch without brushing against the walls. And it was scantily furnished, with signs around that indicated it had been recently tenanted.

I glanced from the hard, mirthless face of Abner to the walls and ceilings, and then at the door he had locked.

"You can't get out of here!" he said, scowling. "It's locked, and if you did get through you couldn't escape far."

"Where are we?" I managed to articulate finally. "And what're you going to do with me?"

"Keep quiet, and you'll fare better!" he snapped out.

I could see that he was worried, that something was troubling him, and it reassured me. He knew that Jerry was in the house and would continue to search until he found my hiding place.

"You're Abner Longwood," I said after a pause. "Uncle Abner!"

He snarled and glared at me, studying my features closely with eyes that had lost none of their fierceness by age. His stare was so intense that I grew uneasy.

"Why'd you come here?" he demanded querulously. "How do I know you're Mary's child?"

"Don't I look like mother?" I asked boldly, returning his stare with unflinching boldness.

HE did not answer, but turned away and shuffled across the room. He pushed a small picture hanging on the wall to one side and then cautiously touched a panel of wood which moved slightly, revealing a hole no larger than the point of a lead pencil.

He applied an eye to this and remained silent for a long time.

It dawned upon me that he was looking through a peep-hole into some

other room of the house. The effect on me was electrical. I sat up and watched him.

Suddenly, as if conscious of my change of attitude, he replaced the picture and whirled around. His face was livid and his eyes blazing.

"What're you looking at?" he demanded.

"At you, Uncle Abner," I replied slowly.

"What for? Look away. I ain't no pretty sight to look at."

"No," I admitted, "but I can't understand. Only a short time ago you were lying on the dining-room floor in a pool of blood—dead! Jerry said you were stone dead!"

"What does he know about it?" he snarled. "I wasn't dead."

"It seems not, but Jerry was positive you were. Now—now you don't look as if you'd been stabbed."

"Well, it's nobody's business," he grumbled surlily. "What'd you and that scamp want to come poking around here for? If you'd stayed away—stayed away..."

His tongue faltered and his mind seemed to wander. He paused and stroked his wrinkled forehead with his hand.

At that moment his age was apparent in every line of his face. His shoulders drooped and his head sagged.

THERE came a distant pounding and rumbling, which aroused him from his apathy. It was made by Jerry searching for me, tearing open closet doors, pounding on the walls and making desperate efforts to solve the mystery of my disappearance. The sounds seemed to please my captor, for he grinned and rubbed his hands in glee.

"He won't find you," he muttered. "The young scamp, to come to Swamp Hollow on such a night as this! Planned to rob me, too—wanting that—that..."

He stopped and gazed at me. "You came to find it, too, didn't you?" he sneered.

"What? The Dallas Heart?"

Although the thing that had caused so much trouble in the family was still a vague mystery to me, I let him think I knew all about it—as Nancy, the child of Mary Lee whom he had practically driven in disgrace from Wildwood, would have.

I could see that he had accepted me as Nancy Lee without question just as Jerry had, and the only explanation that I could give was that he had overheard our conversation through the walls. I was convinced that the peephole through the wall was also a listening tube, and that by applying an ear to it one could hear as well as see.

My mention of the Dallas Heart caused him to grow red and apoplectic. He raised a hand as if to strike me.

"It's gone!" he shouted. "It's lost—stolen! It's not in Swamp Hollow!"

I was almost convinced he spoke the truth, and but for his past record in deception and cruel disregard of others' rights I might have believed him. He was a little too eager, though, to convince me.

"It's not here!" he reiterated in a whining voice. "It was stolen long ago. If you'll go away and leave me alone—take that good-for-nothing nephew of mine with you—I'll—I'll release you. I want to rest and die here in peace."

There was no doubt about the last. He had lived a hermit's life in Swamp Hollow for so long that he had become inured to its loneliness, and Jerry's and my sudden appearance had upset him. I could understand that. He was a desperate old man struggling to preserve his selfish existence from outside interference.

But the tragedy, if it were a tragedy, that we had stumbled upon puzzled and troubled me. What had happened? Had he been stabbed to death and then...

No, of course that was absurd! He stood before me in perfect health! Then what had happened? The more I puzzled over it the more mysterious it appeared.

"Uncle Abner," I said, speaking slowly, "tell me what happened before we came. I—I can't understand it!"

"What're you talking about?" he snarled. "Nothing happened!"

"Yes," I contradicted, "something terrible happened. I can see you now weltering in your own blood. You were stabbed to death on the dining room floor."

He glared at me a moment, and then began laughing in a high cackling voice.

"That nephew of mine told you that? He wanted to frighten you."

I shook my head slowly.

"I saw you with my own eyes," I replied.

He drew back and scowled and showed a fleeting glimpse of haunted fear in his eyes.

"It's a lie," he mumbled unconvincingly. "It's a lie. I wasn't stabbed. Nobody was stabbed. It was the storm and the night."

He stopped suddenly and whirled around upon me.

"Swamp Hollow's haunted!" he jerked out. "You know that! It's always been haunted! I've seen and heard strange things. Spirits come and go. Mebbe one of 'em fooled you—lay on the floor with a knife sticking in him."

"If it was a spirit, Uncle Abner, it was yours," I interrupted.

"That isn't so!" he snapped back sharply. "You're a little fool! If I had been stabbed to death how could I be here? Look at me! Have I any knife wounds on my body?"

He jerked open his coat and vest. There wasn't the slightest evidence that he had met with foul play—not a sign of a wound or a drop of blood on his linen. I shook my head in bewilderment.

"Then if there was no murder," I said slowly, after a pause, "why do you hold me in here? Why do you act so strangely? Why not tell Jerry so and let us both go?"

"I can't!" he cried. "That worthless scamp's after the Dallas Heart! He'd kill me to get it!"

"Then why not give it to him?" I asked boldly. "Why not let us have it? It belongs to us. Give it to us, and we'll go away."

For a moment he seemed to yield to my plea, but a second later a hard, crafty, cunning expression came into his eyes. It was the cupidity of the miser, which is past understanding—a passionate greed that stultifies all human feeling—that he showed.

I WAS growing less afraid every minute. Faced with something tangible, I knew exactly what to expect, and the old man who held me a prisoner could not frighten me half as much as the noises of Swamp Hollow did; but at the same time my intelligence warned me not to be overconfident.

I was beginning to think that my captor was a little crazy, his mind unbalanced by too much brooding. I recalled my earlier conclusion that old men, living in the past, often suffered from an overdose of conscience and repented the sins of their youth.

I had hoped to find Abner Longwood in this condition; but I had not dreamt of finding him mentally unbalanced—a condition which is often the logical punishment nature metes out to men of his type.

Yes, the man was half crazy—not dangerously so, perhaps, but the acts of even a mild lunatic are never easy to prophesy. I decided that I would do nothing to irritate or arouse his animosity. It was my purpose to soothe and quiet him.

I watched him putter around, quiet and sad at one moment, brooding with

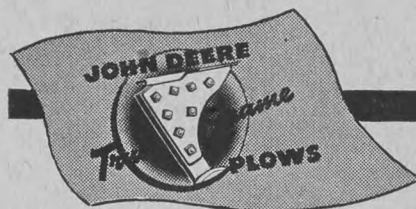
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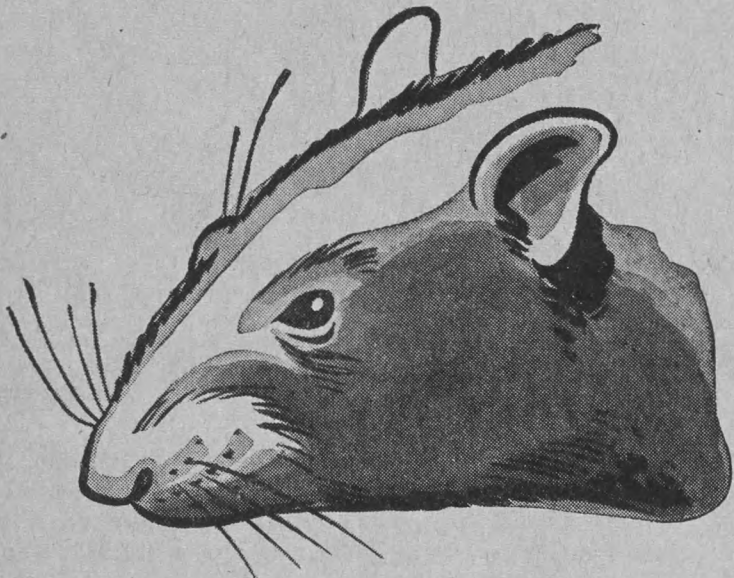
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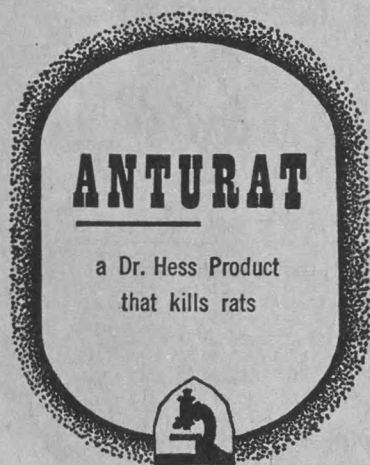
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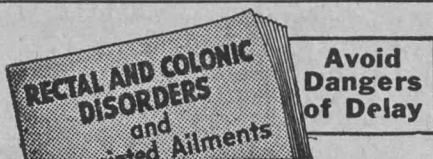
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clouded brow, and restless and irritated the next. One moment he gazed at me with lack-lustre eyes, and the next in a fierce, vengeful way.

We could still hear Jerry rambling through the big house, calling, banging and making a loud racket. I made no attempt to call out. Abner watched me sharply when the voice came near, with his fingers crooked and ready to spring at my throat if I attempted to scream.

"I'm not going to call, Uncle Abner," I said once when he crouched threateningly before me, "I'll keep quiet."

"See that you do," he rumbled. "It wouldn't do any good to shout."

"I know it wouldn't. But how long are you going to keep me here?"

"Until the young scamp goes."

This was not very satisfying, for I had an intuition that Jerry would not leave Swamp Hollow until he found me, and I had great satisfaction in that thought. I shook my head.

"Jerry will never go," I replied. "He won't go until he finds me."

"How do you know?" he cried fiercely.

"Why, I know—or if he goes he'll come back, with help. He'll tear this house to pieces to find me. Uncle Abner," I added impressively, leaning forward, "he loves me! And when a man loves a woman he'll never desert her when she's in trouble."

"Loves you! Loves you!" he repeated sardonically. "You'd marry him—a cousin! You can't! You shan't! I won't permit it! I'd stop it!"

"Wait!" I said, checking him. "I didn't say he loved me that way. Can't he love me without wishing to marry me?"

He suddenly grew quiet and morose again, and by the way he glanced at me I knew his mind was busy and active.

"I couldn't trust you," he mumbled finally. "You know the way in here. You'd show him if I let you go."

"If I promised not to, would you let me go?" I asked eagerly.

"Yes—No!" he replied uncertainly.

"Nancy! Nancy, for God's sake speak to me!" came Jerry's voice so clearly that we both jumped.

Abner sprang to the peep-hole, looked through it, and then closed it, shutting out the sound of the voice so that it reached us only in muffled undertones.

The incident seemed to frighten Abner, for he began pacing the narrow room, stopping finally before me.

"Come," he said, "I'll show you the rest of this secret hiding place. It's worth exploring. It was built here so one could escape into the swamp. I'll show you the way out. Come!"

His sudden change of attitude disquieted me. Had he really decided to free me?

It was plausible that the hiding place had a secret exit into the swamp. In many ancient houses, built in the days of our early Indian wars, secret exits had been made so that the occupants could escape if threatened by fire or a raid. His words seemed fairly convincing, and I nodded.

"You'll go?" he added eagerly. "Then follow me. I'll show you the way out."

There was a possibility that he intended to thrust me out, far from the house, into the swamp where I would be lost; but even that seemed preferable to remaining his prisoner. After a second's pause I complied and rose to follow him.

I had thought that the room had no exit except the stairs and through the opening in the wall back of the picture; but I was soon to be enlightened. Abner Longwood stepped back and moved his hand up and down the paneled wall as if searching for something.

Suddenly, to my surprise, there was a clicking noise almost at my very feet, and a trap-door in the floor swung upward, revealing another pair of stairs.

I stared in amazement, surprise and curiosity in my eyes.

"We'll go down it," he whispered. "It will take us into the swamp."

He thrust his electric light into the yawning opening and motioned for me to proceed; but I drew back in fright.

"You go first," I whispered.

He paused for a second, and then mumbled something under his breath. He watched me as a cat watches a mouse, but I made no move to trick him. The moment he was safely on the ladder I followed. He would not proceed further until one of my feet was on the top rung.

We descended in this way step by step. An unpleasant odor came from below, damp and musty, and I shivered.

It was a short descent, not more than ten feet. At the bottom we came into a room that seemed to be a part of the cellar under the house. I was so sure of this that I asked in a whisper:

"Is this the cellar?"

He nodded and threw the rays of light around for me to see. If it was the cellar it was a small one for such a large house as Swamp Hollow, and I began to doubt if it really was a cellar. I began poking around in the dark corners, sniffing and listening.

There was nothing in the place but a few old barrels and boxes, with piles of old rags and litter swept into the corners. It was foul and musty, with the dampness oozing from the stone foundation in little globules of sweat.

Suddenly the light went out and I was left in total darkness. I gave a great start and cried:

"Where's the light, Uncle Abner? Where are you?"

I HEARD the stealthy tread of his feet, a sharp click as if a foot had come in contact with a stone, and then by the aid of the dim light from above I saw Abner Longwood crawling up the ladder. With a cry of fear, I groped for the first rung and tried to follow him.

It dawned upon me in a flash that he had tricked me, enticed me into the dark cellar where I would be safely out of his way. I screamed again and clutched at his foot; but he was too quick for me, and climbed out of the place and closed the trap-door with a click.

I was in total darkness, and for a time I was too terrified to scream or act. The dastardly trick of the man seemed to paralyze my mind and tongue. He had deliberately lured me into the underground place to hold me a prisoner.

How long he would keep me there I could only conjecture. Certainly until he had got rid of Jerry.

"Jerry! Jerry!" I shrieked then, recovering the use of my voice.

But I might have saved my strength. Jerry was far away, and my voice could not reach him. I blamed myself then for not screaming when only a thin partition had separated us. There



INTERNATIONAL TRADE IMPORTANT

A. E. Arscott, President, Canadian Bank of Commerce, States

Test of High Employment is Foreign Countries' Willingness to Trade with Canada

INDUSTRIAL UPTURN IN LAST TWO MONTHS

S. M. WEDD, Vice-President and General Manager, Presents Strong Statement of Bank — Record Assets and Deposits

At the Annual Meeting of the shareholders of The Canadian Bank of Commerce, held at the Head Office of the Bank in the City of Toronto, December 10th, Mr. Allan E. Arscott, C.B.E., President, addressed the meeting, in part, as follows:

More than twelve months have passed since the fighting ceased on the battle fronts of the recent World War. The people of many of the countries involved are directing their efforts now towards the achievement of their ideals of peace-time activity, and so it is in Canada.

At the end of our crop year we view a country which has received a full measure of the bounty of Providence. This year's crops over all are among the highest on record. The harvest in the Prairie Provinces has been outstanding. The orchard districts have prospered, although the difficulties of obtaining adequate packing and shipping materials hindered for a time the marketing of many of the products. Forestry operations are the most active ever undertaken in Canada owing to a peak demand at home and abroad for lumber, wood pulp and newsprint. All in all the year now coming to a close can be considered a good one so far as our primary products are concerned.

RECONVERSION

A year ago we faced a major task of recasting Canada's greatly enlarged productive system to cope with the anticipated needs of peace-time both in Canada and abroad. This change-over involved the cancellation of war contracts of over \$1,000 million, the transference of at least 1¼ million people from the armed forces and munition plants to civilian occupations, the reconditioning of over-worked industries and the redistribution of available materials. Up to six months ago excellent progress had been made but then delays ensued through a series of employer-employee disputes which crippled the production of many factories and mills during the past summer. We lost among other things during that period a very large volume of industrial production, which might now be regarded as the "unfinished business" of the current year and which must be undertaken anew. In the last two months there has been a resumption of business in all industrial fields and, taking the year as a whole, how well this massive and arduous reconversion work has been done may be judged by a few facts.

Civilian employment during the year reached a record peace-time level, in spite of the difficulties of re-location, and it has been estimated that in the spring of this year 4¼ million people were gainfully employed. Production of civilian goods generally has been high—exceeding, in many lines, the volume established in 1939. Noticeable, too, has been the buoyancy of our exports which have been at an average monthly rate

of roughly \$175 million, and this without the volume of war supplies that bulked large in exports in the war years. This average in comparison with 1935-1939 figures is about double the pre-war value. Imports of a monthly average of approximately \$150 million were the highest in the recent history of this country. I think we can all agree that this record is a worthy accomplishment.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

There have been unforeseen difficulties to cope with in this transition period and they all are not yet solved. New problems and issues that were in the first instance considered of secondary importance now are developing to an extent that commands careful thought and study.

INFLATIONARY TENDENCIES IN THE ECONOMY

There are many definitions of inflation and much attention has been directed to its inherent evils. As an almost inevitable accompaniment of high-level war production, there has been a marked expansion of the volume of money which might be viewed as monetary inflation. On the other hand, by means of price and wage controls, investment of savings in Government bond issues and taxation to meet the costs of war, price inflation has been moderate. However, the increase in money supply brings with it ominous possibilities, the seriousness of which depends on a number of factors. If people decide to hold their cash or savings deposits and to retain Government bonds bought during the war instead of making purchases while goods are in short supply, then to that extent the threat is reduced, but it will still be present until increased production at relatively stable prices brings the post-war supply of goods into balance with the present volume of money.

Having regard for the above circumstances it is in the interests of all business to consider in terms of current conditions the significance of the term "pent-up demand," and what has become known as the "back-log" of unfilled orders. Ordinarily, demand is governed by prices, and upward price adjustments may serve to restrain the volume of replacement demand. Care must be taken, therefore, to avoid the making of commitments which depend for success upon further price increases and free spending. Also it cannot be overlooked that "pricing out of the market" can happen both at home and abroad. Hence it is necessary to keep in mind that increasing costs of production can be the main contributing factor to such a development.

TAXATION

During war time taxes are paid willingly in the main because people are motivated by a sense of patriotism and duty. When this urge subsides the continued heavy burden of taxation becomes noticeable and acts as a deterrent to investment, to risk-taking, to

saving, and also to productive activity. It must be recognized that taxes, whether they are levied on goods or services or earnings, in the end fall upon the citizens. It is impossible to appraise the reaction of all individuals concerned, but with the great body of workers the important factor is not the gross income before tax deduction at the source, but the amount of the "take-home" pay. In the individual's mind the question of whether or not he is being reasonably rewarded for his work hinges on the net amount he receives in his pay envelope. Thus the natural incentive of the worker to put forth extra effort to achieve maximum per capita production, with higher gross earnings, tends to diminish when heavily graduated income taxes have the effect of allowing a relatively lower net return for the extra work; consequently production suffers. In like fashion very high taxes have the effect of discouraging venture capital necessary for the development of those assets which have a relatively high rate of depletion.

Taxation and spending in the main are inseparable. It is well understood that taxes are necessary and that no single ideal expenditure-revenue pattern can be outlined. The effect, however, of continued heavy taxation on peace-time activity in all spheres suggests fresh study towards revision of the whole tax structure. Also, consideration may well be given to the advisability of turnover or selective sales taxes to a greater extent to allow of a modification of direct income taxes which are having a hampering effect on business and production in general.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Throughout the war years many reports have been received of the high standing of Canada and Canadians. Even in recent months Canada's role as a creditor country has been noted favourably in other countries, perhaps because few, if any, political strings are attached. This is all to the good, and no Canadian can be other than proud of this record. However, war conditions pass, and no less than ourselves are the people in other countries working toward rehabilitation. It is at this point that we must trade not on our record of the war years but on the quality of our products and on our prices relative to competitors. Changing costs of production and other allied factors may well alter our terms of trade to our disadvantage. The test of sustained high domestic employment is the continued willingness of foreign countries to engage in trade with us.

Our stake in world trade is perhaps as high as that of most countries involved in the trade discussions to be carried on in connection with the operation of international monetary agreements. Unless nations work together on problems of trade, efforts to stabilize exchange rates and to encourage the flow of international investment capital will have little chance of being effective. International trade is the keystone in the whole programme of economic co-operation. It is obvious, therefore, that

our aims must be at least to maintain the current level of exports, to trade with a wide variety of countries, and to achieve a well-rounded balance with all countries. It seems reasonable therefore to support the rehabilitation of European economic areas and their import-export programmes.

In conclusion, I may say that in today's transition period it is necessary to recognize the difficulties involved in replacing the war incentive of "self-preservation" with the ideals of individual freedom and liberty. In this task we must not lose sight of the principles of democratic society, as we know them, in spite of the seemingly attractive alternative proposals which ultimately must lead to the subjugation of the individual to the state. It is not my intention to attempt to allocate responsibility, but it becomes our business—the business of everyone—when conditions arise which make it impossible to operate as a free people. We Canadians, and I believe I speak for all of us, understood that the recent war was fought to destroy the possibility of control over our lives by the arbitrary exercise of power. Maintenance of this objective through the transition is of equal importance. Let it be remembered that individual freedom and democratic government were recognized many centuries ago as the highest yet most difficult way of life to attain.

GENERAL MANAGER ADDRESSES MEETING

We are pleased to present to you a balance sheet which indicates a satisfactory growth in the business of the Bank and also to report that the number of our individual customers, both borrowers and depositors, is continuing to show a substantial increase and now aggregates over 1,500,000. This is a gratifying reflection of our useful service.

As you will observe from the Annual Statement which is before you, the total assets of the Bank stand at \$1,441,581,728, an increase of \$157,260,944 in the past twelve months. Quick assets aggregate \$1,116,523,416, or about 81% of the Bank's liabilities to the public.

We have on deposit with the Bank of Canada and in notes of that Bank \$140,193,543. Notes of and cheques on other banks amount to \$37,421,893. Dominion and Provincial Government securities, of which over 36% mature within two years, stand at \$770,381,773.

Current loans in Canada now amount to \$237,869,093. There is an increase of \$50,978,322 in these figures which is an indication of the general activity of post-war business.

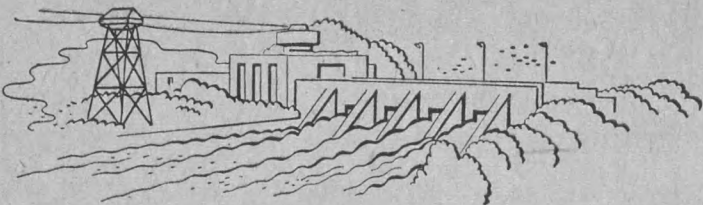
Our current loans elsewhere amount to \$27,325,940.

The total of the deposits by the public stands at \$1,233,018,308, represented by \$536,145,245 in current accounts and \$696,873,063 bearing interest.

Earnings for the past year are higher and it will be noted that after providing for increased dividends the amount carried forward into the Profit and Loss Account is \$601,239. This is \$205,713 in excess of the amount carried forward a year ago.

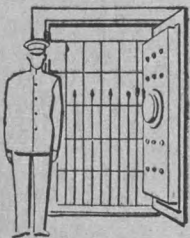
It is a source of great satisfaction to welcome back to the Bank so many of our staff who were in the Services. We are taking all possible steps to see that the period they have been away has not been a handicap to them.

I should like to emphasize at this time that the satisfactory results of the past year's business are ample evidence that the staff of the Bank are competent and aggressive. They are a splendid group of men and women, of whom the shareholders can be justly proud.—Adv't.



57¢ IN VICTORY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT BONDS

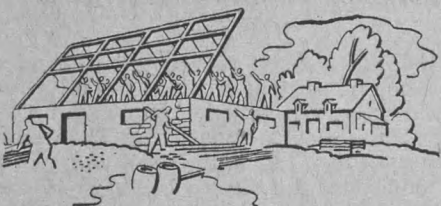
GOING PLACES! with the LIFE INSURANCE DOLLAR



31½¢ IN CASH AND OTHER ASSETS



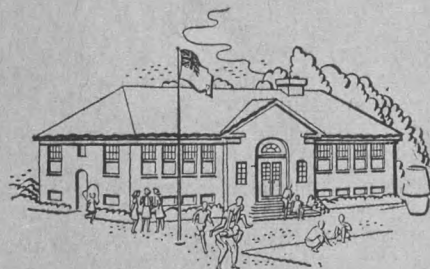
20¢ IN PUBLIC UTILITIES, INDUSTRIES, ETC.



8½¢ IN FARM AND URBAN MORTGAGES



5¢ IN LOANS TO POLICYHOLDERS



5¢ IN CITY AND TOWN DEBENTURES



1¢ IN BUILDINGS AND REAL ESTATE

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LF-746

might have been hope of rescue then. There was little or none now.

The place was absolutely dark, and I huddled at the foot of the ladder in terror. Was the man crazy? Would he leave me there to starve or die of fright, or would he return in time and release me?

The situation was so appalling and desperate that I became numb with horror, and for a long time I could do nothing but call Jerry and sob aloud.

Not a sound came from above. If the owner of Swamp Hollow heard he was indifferent to my pleas.

Gaining a little self-control, I finally crawled up the ladder until my hand came in contact with the trap-door. I pushed against it with all my might, but it did not yield.

It creaked and rasped a little, and a ray of hope came to me. The hinges were rusty from age and long disuse, while the wood itself was rotten and soft in places.

With trembling fingers I examined the hinges, poking at them until my nails were broken. Yes, they were rusty, and the wood was rotten with age. If a man were imprisoned there—Jerry, for instance—what would he do? I asked myself this question, and then proceeded to answer it with acts.

The only implement I had was a small nail file, one of those dainty silver things that come with manicure sets. It belonged to the tiny vanity case that I had tucked in my pocket. It was so fragile and small that I was almost afraid it would break if used for any purpose other than that for which it had been made.

Still I was desperate. I had to do something. I could not sit there and wait for release that might never come.

I thought of Jerry, and began picking cautiously at the hinges. But rusted as they were, they were still stout enough to resist anything I could do; but the wood was soft and rotten.

I attacked this, picking and digging small splinters around the hinge nearest me. Once my file sunk its full length into the wood, I gave a start and breathed more easily. The wood in places was little more than punk.

How my heart beat with hope and fear! If I could once get out of the place I would take my chances in a struggle with the old man. That was better than starving down there in the cellar.

I worked feverishly, picking and digging at the rotten wood with nail file and fingers. A sudden tinkling noise startled me, and I held my breath a moment. Then I expelled it with a faint cry of joy. One of the screws had been loosened and dropped out.

I do not know how long I scraped and dug and picked at first one hinge and then at the other, but it seemed ages to me.

I was cramped in my awkward position, and my body and limbs ached. But I was too desperate to give heed to anything but the necessity for accomplishing my purpose.

Another screw came loose, and I managed to pick it out with my nail file. It gave me a thrill as few things in my life had done. It was a milestone in my progress toward freedom.

Abner Longwood had made no noise above, and sometimes I wondered what he was doing or what new diabolical trap he might be preparing in case I should work myself out of the underground dungeon.

Would he wait for me and then crack me on the head with some instrument, toppling me back into the hole to break my neck in the fall? This had to be considered, and as I silently worked away at my desperate task I tried to plan what I should do.

I would not immediately thrust my head up once the door was lifted from its hinges. I would play cautiously, ducking back into the hole until Abner

betrayed his presence. He would have the advantage, working from above with a searchlight.

Yes, I would be decidedly in a dangerous position, but even that was better than rotting in the cellar.

I had dug the hinges half out of the rotten wood when I decided it was time to see if I could force the door. I braced myself on a rung of the ladder, and bent my head so that the pressure would come partly on my shoulders. I slowly straightened my body, pushing upward with increasing force.

I was disappointed when nothing happened. Not even a creak of the door or hinges greeted my ears. Was the thing held fast by bolts? Or was Abner sitting on it so that even if the hinges fell off I could not budge it?

This thought was disheartening. It explained the reason for my failure to move it.

Half in anger and half in the hope that I could break through, I straightened my body and exerted all the upward pressure possible. There was a moment of silence, a desperate moment of fear and uncertainty, and then something gave way. And with a crash the door opened, nearly catapulting me through the opening. I had to clutch at the sides to save myself from falling back into the hole.

Clinging precariously to my support, I hung there, momentarily expecting a blow on the head; but it did not come. And when I looked up I saw by the dim light from the lamp that I was in no immediate danger.

Abner was not crouching there, waiting for me. A quick glance around the small room showed me further that he was not in it.

With a little gasp of relief I climbed out and stood a moment, wild-eyed and expectant, waiting for his appearance. The door leading to the spiral stairs above was open. Was he crouching behind it or lurking on the dark stairs to catch me unawares?

All the cunning and caution of a trapped animal came to me, and I crossed the room to take a station as far from the open trap-door as possible. There I waited and listened in breathless silence. I stood behind a chair, grasping its back for support, also with the intention of using it for a weapon of self-defence.

The silence of the room was oppressive, and in time it got on my nerves. Not a sound reached my ears, and my own breathing seemed to be the only thing that disturbed the tomb-like stillness.

Could it be that Abner Longwood had fled, leaving the place, confident that he had me safely imprisoned below? Such an idea made me wild to rush up the stairs and fling myself out of the secret hole into the main upper hall of the house.

Jerry would be somewhere around. Once by his side I would be safe.

Encouraged by the thought I began edging toward the door, and when I reached it I peered up the spiral stairs. The lower part was bathed in the light from the lamp, but the upper part was in gloom.

Dared I risk it? Was Abner lurking at the head of the stairs waiting for me?

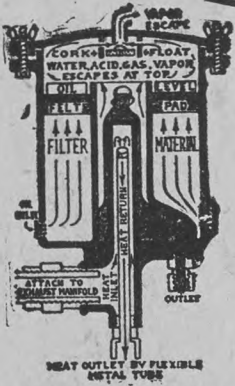
For a long time I could not muster the courage to act. Then I calmed my beating heart, and started swiftly for the stairs, rushing up them for fear I might weaken and change my mind before gaining the top.

They were steep and narrow, with no railing on either side for support, but I climbed them swiftly. On the top step I paused and caught my breath with a gasp.

The huge frame containing the portrait was swung back, revealing the hall beyond. And in the opening stood Abner Longwood, peering out and listening!

(To be continued.)

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UNDER THE PEACE TOWER

Continued from page 11

here to break up the meeting!"

So the chief's incredible conduct finally came clear. I was supposed to be one of the Cournoyer "gorillas." As it turned out, the police had reason to be afraid of somebody. For you may remember that one of the Union organizers got beaten up, and another was dragged out of his hotel room (presumably the one that housed yours truly) and held in a cellar till mid-morning, on election day.

The Union des Electeurs were incredibly naive. If there is one thing a politician likes to do, it is talk to a newspaperman. I taxied down to their headquarters, by appointment, and then asked them for their manifesto. After some hemming and hawing, they finally agreed that they would send me some printed material to my hotel. When I got back to Ottawa, four days later, it arrived. Now a politico who can't even tell you what his party stands for, who can't dish out any propaganda, who can't at least make a political speech to a reporter, certainly isn't dry behind the ears. The result—their candidate lost his deposit.

The story I liked best about the by-election was that of the party campaigner who went out with two big black suitcases. He would go into the farm house, meet the head of the house, and say:

"Before we begin, let us realize we are in a good Catholic home, that you are pious people. Suppose we pray first."

Assuming that the habitant would accede, out from the big black valises would come beads, and other "objets de pieté." These would be passed around, and a sacred picture would be put on the table. After prayers, the family would be allowed to keep these pious articles. Only then would the political palaver begin.

Now suppose, when prayers were mentioned, the farmer said something like this: "Prayer? I don't know. After all, we do our share. The curé looks after such things for us. There are other times—many other times, when we might pray. I am not so sure that I feel like prayers now."

With that, the campaigner would turn round and reach for the other big, black valise. As he did, he would say:

"Well, of course, there is that way of looking at it too."

He then would open the second valise, take out a bottle of whiskey, and the drinking would begin.

So do they campaign in Quebec.

The next stop was Quebec City, where I called on Premier Duplessis. He occupies a big oblong office on the north side of the government buildings, with a view that commands a sublime sweep of countryside. I have been in all

of the nine provincial premiers' offices, and Monsieur Duplessis has by far the finest view from his window of them all.

Later, I saw Adelard Godbout, the former Liberal premier. The contrast between the two men is sharp. Duplessis is a handsome man, an outspoken, forthright, hard-hitting man. He says what he likes. Sometimes he lets his tongue run away with his head. But if he does, so what? He stands by what he says.

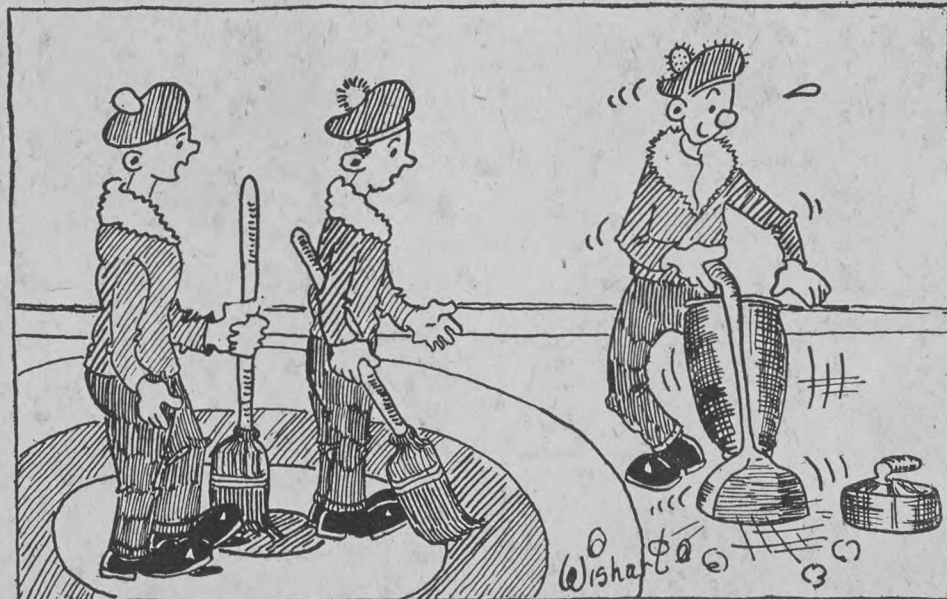
Duplessis puts it this way: his friends are his friends, his foes his foes, and never the twain shall meet. Duplessis plays the gallery and the gallery loves it. So does Duplessis. Duplessis is fire-works and hot words, a political volcano. But back of it all is a brain that amounts almost to genius. Spectacular in everything, he is always good copy.

Godbout is slim, slight, short, the soul of courtesy. He has the manners of the old school, or to put it another way, reveals the traditional courtesy and polish of a cultured French-Canadian. Godbout is "un tres grand gentil-homme."

Godbout lives in dingy quarters compared with his former splendor. To the victor belong the spoils—and the best offices.

The Quebec legislative buildings are like no other. For one thing, most signs are in French, though it is surprising how many gestures there are toward English Canada. Most responsible officials speak English—and speak it well. But a little French will go a long way, in making friends, in smoothing things. They like the gesture, even if they don't recognize the accent. Their legislature, with green as the main decorating theme, also is the only provincial government having a crucifix over the speaker's chair. Its press gallery, bilingual but almost 100 per cent French-Canadian, is also the largest of all provincial press galleries. This is because the French-Canadian has a more acute interest in politics than the citizens of any other province. And over it all flies the Union Jack.

As the evening train whisks you a mile a minute away from Quebec, you sit quietly while your flier roars through such French hamlets as Pontneuf, La Perade and Batiscau, trying to figure out what makes Quebec different, provincially. I think it is this: Quebec plays politics all the time. We "Anglais" play it occasionally, as one strums the piano if he can, when he feels like it. Quebec's politics are ceaselessly moving, like the sea. There is high tide, and low tide, but there is never any time when there is no tide. Restless, ever-changing, in a world where land stands still, the sea is always moving. Outside Quebec, the rest of us in Canada get "het up" for a spell, then forget all about who's running the country. But in Quebec, every day's like election day. That's why I said at the beginning: Always something new out of Quebec.



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Mercy Flights

A story of Saskatchewan's new Air Ambulance Service and its success in the first year

IT is not yet quite a year since Saskatchewan established its air ambulance service. In its first two months of operation, some 60 cases of sick patients were transported by plane from outlying points to hospitals. The demand for and the use of the service have increased as it has become known. Starting in February, 1946, it had by November reached a total of 153 "mercy flights" and for the week of November 25 chalked up a peak record of handling 18 flights in six flying days.

The responsibility of defining "an emergency case" rests with the doctor of the patient. He then puts in a call to the Regina airport, or direct to one of the two pilots. The aircrew and nurse are on 24-hour call. According to flying regulations they cannot land a plane on an unlighted airfield at night. So if the call comes at night, the pilot and engineer proceed to chart their intended course and may decide to make the nearest landing field that same night. Ordinarily they operate from dawn to dusk so if they have to go a long distance they could thus be ready for an early morning take-off to the actual location and save precious daylight hours.

Keith Malcolm, Supervisor of the Air Ambulance Service, returned to Canada last winter after five years of service with the R.C.A.F.—one year of that flying over Europe, and bethought himself of some way whereby he could put his training and talents to use at home.

Premier T. C. Douglas, as Minister of Health of the Saskatchewan government, had been planning extension of health services and worked out the idea of air ambulance to meet the needs of those living in outlying parts of the province. Negotiations for the purchase of suitable aircraft were under way. As early as mid-November, 1945, a Norseman plane had been bought from War Assets Corporation, inspected and licenced at Edmonton by the federal Department of Civil Aviation. Thus Saskatchewan was ready to launch what was to be the first air ambulance service in Canada. Three weeks after Keith Malcolm's return to Canada he found himself engaged as pilot with the Department of Health and furnished

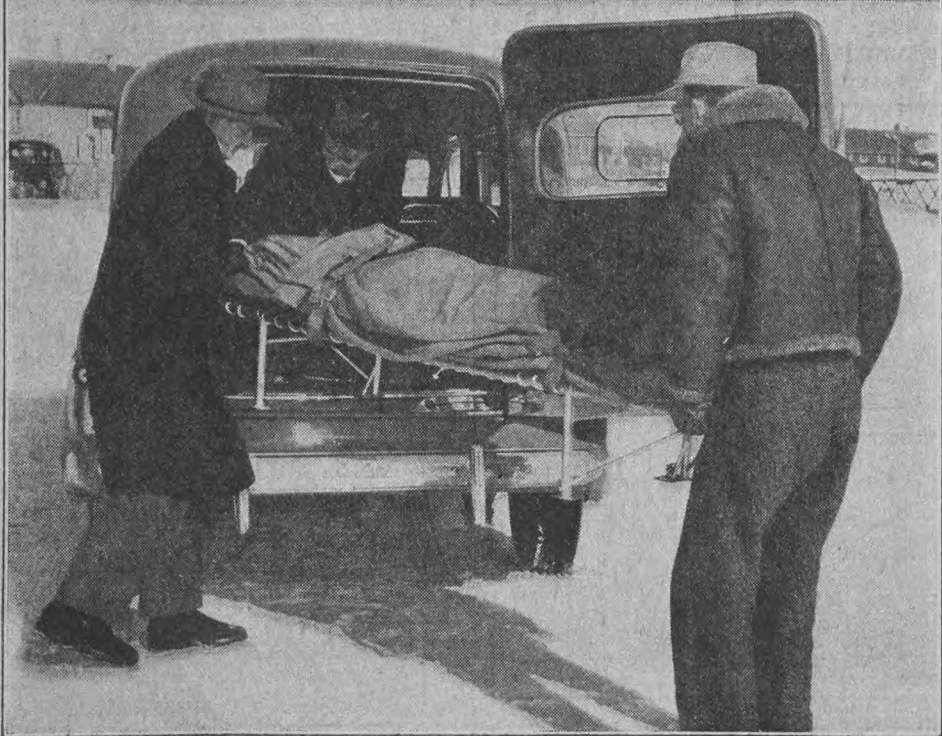
with a crew and a nurse, ready for action.

Keith Malcolm is a native of Saskatchewan, born at Aneroid. His father, Rev. Frank Malcolm, is a minister of the United Church. Associated with the young Malcolm is a second pilot, Julian Audette, also a native of Saskatchewan, who forsook work with figures and books as a government auditor to train and serve as a pilot and instructor at Saskatoon. He left Canada's west coast to do transport flying over China and India for about a year, before returning and taking his present job. Besides the two pilots, their outfit consisted, until the second plane was bought in November, of three air-engineers and a registered nurse, Mabel Gleadow.

THE second plane has been added as well as additional crew and a second nurse, Irene Sutherland of Assiniboia. The first plane had a 100-gallon gas capacity and a range of 500 miles. The new plane is of the same Norseman make but slightly different model, holds 200-gallons of gas and has a range of some 1,200 miles. This one was especially equipped at the plant for the job required. In both planes a part of the fuselage is removable to permit entry of the stretcher, and then is fastened back into place again. Each plane accommodates besides the pilot and the flight engineer, the stretcher patient, a nurse and one other passenger. The doctor may be taken to a patient or accompany him if he so desires. At the time of my visit to the Regina airport to view the planes, skis were ready to be put on one while the other stood on wheels. It is planned to have one of the planes based in the north, probably at Prince Albert, and it will be fitted on floats in summer.

Once established, the service was made known by circularizing Saskatchewan doctors, registered nurses and municipal offices. When an order for the air ambulance is put in, an exact description of the patient's home location must be furnished—a description of the house and barns, layout, etc., and the direction and distance from the nearest village or town. Signals are

Turn to page 46



Above: The new Norseman plane and crew members; from left to right, Julian Audette, pilot; W. H. Murray, mechanic; M. E. Gleadow, nurse; Keith Malcolm, pilot and supervisor, and Don Watson, flight engineer. Left column from top to bottom; Keith Malcolm (right) and air engineer plot a course on the map. Signalling the plane into a field landing. The stretcher-case patient being taken to the plane. At city airport the patient is put into a waiting ambulance.

The Countrywoman

The New Year

By EFFIE BUTLER

*A new year's like a book unread,
A tree with fruit unharvested,
A landscape whose horizons lie
In silent shade 'neath silent sky:*

*A house with furnishings concealed,
A wealth of gifts yet unrevealed—
This is the new year that awaits
Beyond tomorrow's opening gates.*

New Ideas Count

NEW ideas are born of new times. It requires imagination on the part of every generation both to look ahead and to vision what may be; to see how best modern materials and equipment can be put to use to help mankind. A nurse stationed in an out-post district put into words an idea, which seems to this writer to be one which, for sheer imagination and practicalness, surpasses many which come on the subject of health services to people in remote areas.

She was a slight little Englishwoman, who had come to Canada to do nursing. She had taken the extra precaution to take a special course in midwifery before coming. She had been greatly moved by stories told in England of the Church of England mission work done by nurses in our northern areas. In the true missionary spirit she gave of her time and effort voluntarily. Then some good friend pointed out that Canada was in need of such skill and service, but departments of health were willing to pay for them. So she entered the employment of a health department in one of the prairie provinces. She worked in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba at various times. Then she went to eastern Canada for more advanced training. I am not certain of her present whereabouts, but wherever she is I am sure that she is putting ideas to work and giving of herself gladly.

On a mid-summer afternoon, three of us were having tea with her in her tiny nurse's cottage. She was, at the moment, stationed in an outpost district—50 miles from a doctor, 60 miles from the nearest hospital and seven miles from the closest telephone. She was telling us how, on the day before, she had ministered to a woman who had given birth to her seventeenth child, and how at moments the nurse had feared for the mother's life. We remarked on the responsibility and the risk that a nurse had to assume in such a case, where there was no doctor within call.

Then she told us of her idea. It was that more nurses be stationed at outlying points where there is, at present, no medical aid. They could be in touch, by two-way radio, with a doctor at the nearest health centre and could have a given period of the day for consultation. The nurse would profit by the doctor's advice, could detect more easily danger signs in a case. When an actual emergency arose there would be a plane available to conduct the patient to a hospital or a doctor to the patient.

Since that summer day, over two years ago, Saskatchewan has put into actual operation an air ambulance service. What about the other part of the idea—radio communication between nurse and doctor? Those who profess to know the practical end of it are prepared to tell about obstacles to such a service. It requires expensive and extensive equipment—and some of it is not available at present. The number of radio frequencies available is limited. It is not possible to overload those frequencies or the air gets cluttered up with messages and there would be interference, and so on. Two-way radio communication is now an accepted thing in business and government work such as, for example, between headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company and its outposts; between police and fishery men. We know that two-way radio communication was widely used during the war between military and naval forces; that commanders, behind the lines, held conversations with their men in tanks advancing into actual battle.

Radio is here to stay. It has made great progress in recent years. Why can it not be put to use in health service, where lives are often at stake?

Suffer The Little Children?

IT is difficult for us to picture the lives of people in Europe today as that continent emerges from the terrible violence and destruction of war. We may perhaps read of it in the press or listen to radio talks on

**Gifted with the power of vision we
may better understand the world
in which we live**

By AMY J. ROE

the subject. But we ourselves do not see it in its daily misery and suffering. We are dependent upon descriptions brought to us by newspaper correspondents and lecturers. Do we read, listen and think about it for very long? We may well ask ourselves do we really understand. We go about our own affairs until possibly some few words or a picture brings it home to us and shocks us into attention. Then do we do anything about it?

We have now emerged from the celebration of Christmas, where the values of home, children, love and companionship were stressed. Surely now we can pause to think of the thousands of homeless children in Europe and have our hearts stirred to do something for them. The parents of many of those children died before their children came really to know them. They died in actual battle, in concentration camps or from starvation in the struggle that was to free the world and us from the dreadful fear of Nazi domination. All freedom loving men and women are indebted to see that the children of those who gave their lives do not suffer unduly.

Countless children today are homeless, many of them do not know their own names—children who cry when you speak to them, who cry when they hear a noise because they are afraid that it is another airplane. They are the war-shocked, sick, abandoned and hungry orphans of Europe today. Many of them have never slept in a warm bed, never had a warm meal. There they are! They are growing up and will be citizens of the world of tomorrow, fellow citizens of the world which our Canadian children of today will inherit. If there is to be peace in that world of tomorrow, can we possibly afford to forget or neglect those tragic little people of today?

A young Czechoslovak woman, Dr. Lotta Hitchmanova, has been travelling across the breadth of Canada, telling their story to such as will listen. She has spoken in churches, to women's and men's organizations, to students in schools and universities and over the radio. She has told Canadians how they may help—by adopting a child for three months, paying \$15 a month to give it a chance to be boarded at a home or camp. Dr. Hitchmanova is gifted for and experienced in her work. She was born in Prague, graduated from universities in Prague and Paris in philosophy. She worked as a newspaper woman in Paris and Belgium, as well as in her native land of Czechoslovakia, until 1938. She had to flee her own country because of her political beliefs, going first to Belgium and then France. In May, 1942, she came to Canada, where she worked. Now she is National Director of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada and is working to raise funds to help furnish homes, food and clothing for children of Czechoslovakia, France and Spain. Canada has given official recognition to that committee as one of the major relief agencies of the Dominion. Such contributions are exempt from income tax. So far about 1,000 children are being provided for out of money sent by Canadians.

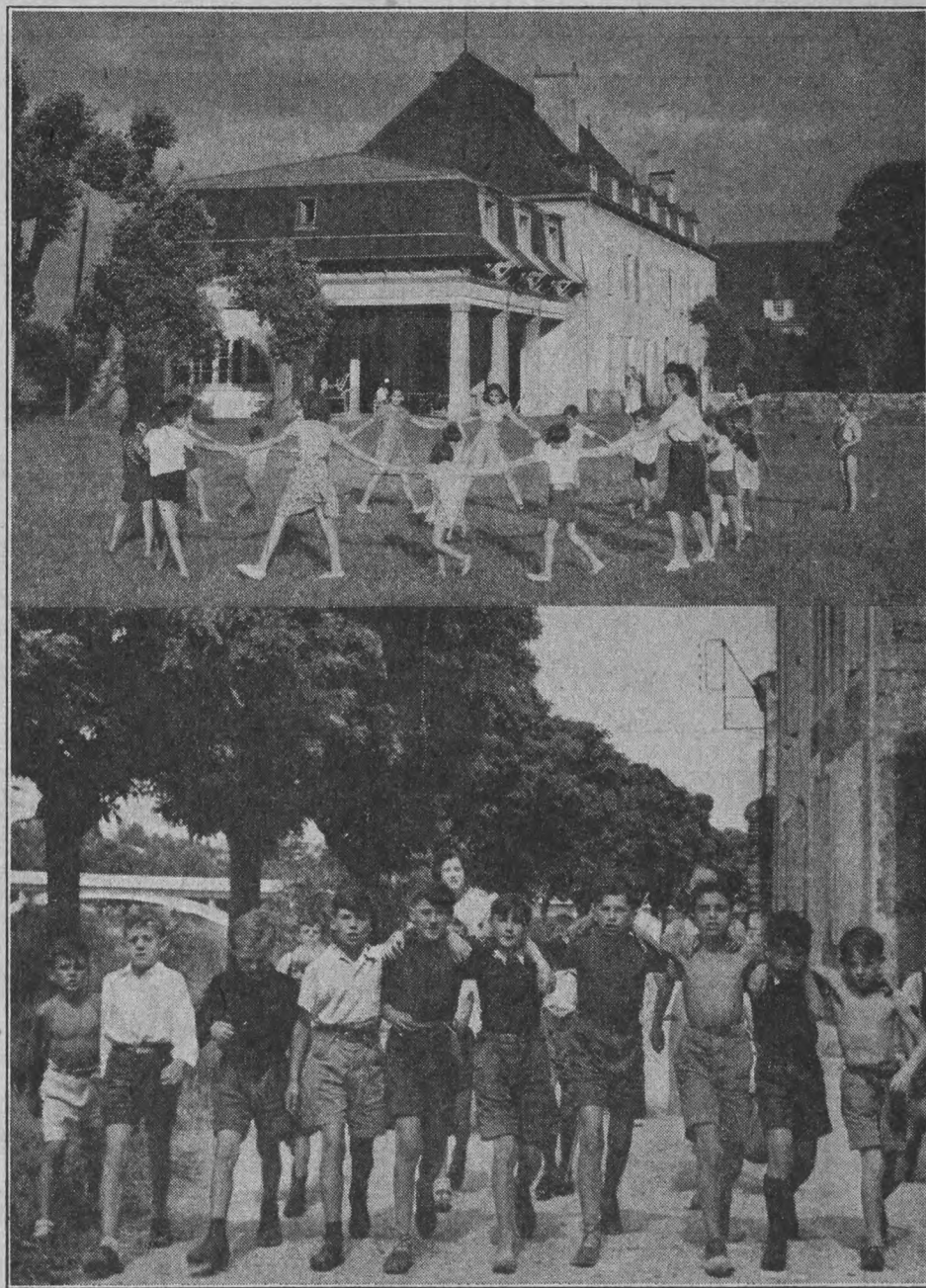
The need is great. It is being handled under a duly authorized body; The Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, with headquarters at 48 Sparks St., Ottawa. Other churches are lending their aid—United, Church of England, Baptist and Presbyterian—in the name of common humanity. The channel is open for our charity to flow across the ocean and into the lives of suffering children.

To Mark Health Week

MEDICAL science has done much in the disease prevention field in the past and there is nothing to make us believe more discoveries of a similar nature will not be made in the future. But medical science can only do so much. It is up to the individual, the community and the nation to support the discoveries of the scientists by making use of them. Public health officials and health educators need the support and co-operation of the population at large if disease-eradicating and life-saving practices are to become effective.

Science has proven that pasteurization kills disease bacteria found in raw milk. Yet more people in Canada today are drinking raw milk than the safe pasteurized milk. Toxoid prevents diphtheria, yet last year in Canada there were 270 deaths from diphtheria.

To focus public attention on the state of Canada's health, National Health Week will be held during the week of February 2 in 1947. It will be observed from coast to coast. Taking part will be: departments of health and education, churches, schools, clubs of many kinds, press, radio and film exhibitors. It is hoped that this observance will make all Canadians health conscious—conscious of health problems in the nation at large and in their homes and communities. The awareness of the value of good health, it is hoped, will be developed into vigorous action to obtain better habits and standards both by personal behavior and by legislation.



Children playing on the grounds of a convalescent home for war-shocked children in central France. Lower: a group of boys on the way to a beach at a summer camp provided by contributions of \$15 a month for each child, under the sponsorship of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, Sparks St., Ottawa.

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BY THE
POUND — IT'S
**CHASE &
SANBORN!**

Custards

Provide good ways to use milk and eggs

SMOOTH, mellow, sweet tasting custard is a favorite dessert. Because of its own bland flavor, other foods and flavors may be successfully combined with custard to give variety in the menu. Custard may become either a light or hearty dessert to fit in with the first course, depending on what foods and flavors it is blended with.

Nutritious as well as delicious, custards are a mixture of either whole eggs, or yolks only, milk, sugar, flavoring and a pinch of salt. They are an ideal way to incorporate milk and eggs into the diets of both children and adults, and because they are easy to digest, are an excellent food for invalids and convalescents.

Because custards are made from eggs, and eggs should be cooked at low to moderate temperatures to be tender and easy to digest, custards should always be placed in a pan of hot water and baked in a moderate or low oven. High oven temperatures cause the custard to curdle and separate, and the results are not appetizing.

Baked Chocolate Custard

3 or 4 eggs	6 T. cocoa
1/2 c. sugar	3 c. hot milk
1/2 tsp. salt	1/2 tsp. vanilla

Beat eggs slightly, add sugar, salt, and cocoa mixed together. Add hot milk slowly, then vanilla. Strain. Pour into greased individual custard cups and steam over boiling water, or set in a pan of hot water and bake in a moderate oven, 350 degrees Fahr. about 40 minutes, or until a silver knife inserted in the centre comes out clean. Note—four eggs are necessary if custard is baked in one large dish. Serves 6-7.

Big Hit with Babies-



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A wholesome porridge containing the meat and broth of selected chickens, vegetables, liberal amounts of Durum Farina, wheat germ and milk. Furnishes some meat protein, but is primarily a cereal product. Since it is backed by a fine 77-year quality tradition, you can rely on its uniformity.

Snowball Custard

1 1/4 c. milk	1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 c. sugar	1/2 tsp. almond extract
Few grains salt	
3 egg whites	

Scald milk. Add sugar and salt; stir until sugar is dissolved. Beat egg whites slightly. Pour milk over egg whites stirring constantly. Add extracts. Pour into custard cups. Set cups in hot water. Bake in very moderate oven (325 degrees Fahr.) 25 minutes or until set. Chill. Serves 6.

Cheese Custard a la Royal

2 egg yolks	1/2 c. milk
1 1/2 T. grated cheese	1/2 tsp. salt

Beat yolks of eggs. Add milk and salt, and strain custard into flat bottom pan. Add grated cheese and set in a pan of hot water. Bake until set in oven of 350 degrees Fahr. Leave in pan until cold. Cut in fancy shapes. Place in soup bowl and pour over hot consomme and serve.

Ham and Celery Custard

4 eggs	1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 c. milk	
1 c. chopped celery	Salt and pepper
1 c. cooked ham, finely chopped	

Beat eggs, add hot milk, celery, ham, and seasonings. Pour into buttered baking dish or individual moulds. Place in pan of hot water and bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees Fahr.) until custard is firm.

Cottage Cheese Custard

3 well-beaten eggs	1 1/2 c. milk
1/2 c. sugar	1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 c. cottage cheese, strained	1/4 tsp. vanilla

Combine the ingredients in order given. Turn the mixture into buttered custard cups, place them in a pan of hot water and bake in a moderate oven (325 degrees Fahr.) for one hour and a quarter to one hour and a half. Serve the custard cold. This recipe fills about seven cups.

Your baby will enjoy the delicious flavour of other Heinz varieties such as Vegetable Soup with Cereal and Yeast, Vegetables and Lamb, Beef and Liver Soup, Tomato Soup. Taste them yourself! See why babies enjoy their flavour, colour and texture.



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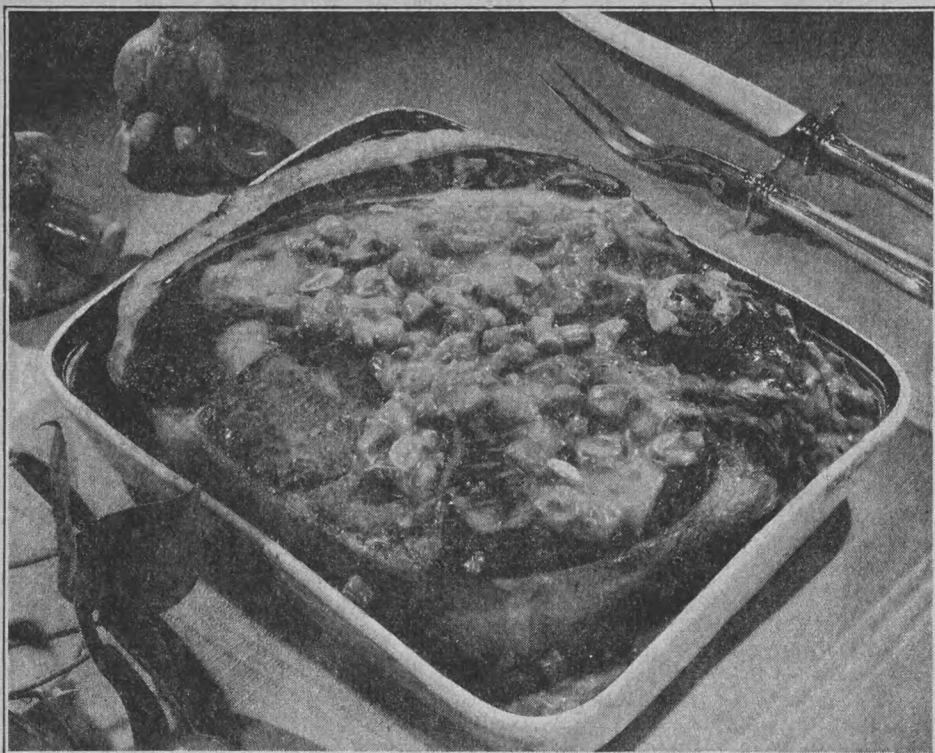
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Tender Swiss steak smothered with mushrooms makes an inviting and hearty dish.

Tasty Steaks

Give the family a treat in the form of a thick juicy steak

By MARION R. McKEE

THERE is nothing to equal a good steak dinner, especially now when the cold weather demands a hearty appetizing meat. Sizzling, richly browned, and giving off a heavenly odor, steak is guaranteed to be a success on any occasion.

Steaks fall into two classes: the tender or choice cuts and the less tender and more economical cuts. The choice cuts are cooked by quick dry heat, and the tougher cuts demand a long, slow cooking time in moist heat to make them tender. Both are delicious if they are properly prepared and the correct precautions are taken.

The choice cuts of steak come from the part of the animal which gets little exercise, therefore having little tough connective tissue and being made up of tender meat with a delicate sprinkling of fat throughout the lean. Most of these choice cuts come from the loin section of the carcass and among them are the tenderloin, sirloin, porterhouse, T-bone, and club steaks. To be really at their best these choice steaks should be cut at least one inch thick or more.

Pan-broiling or what we commonly call frying, is an excellent way to cook a tender steak. Slash the fat around the edge of the steak to prevent the meat from curling during the cooking. Place the steak in a sizzling hot skillet which has been rubbed with trimmings of fat. Brown the steak well on both sides. Then reduce the temperature, pour off the excess fat as it accumulates, and cook uncovered until it is done as desired, turning from time to time. Never cover the pan as this keeps in the steam and moisture.

It has often been discussed whether it is better to salt the meat before cooking or after the steak is done. From several experiments it has been found that the better flavor was developed if the steak was salted after it was done, or after it was browned on one side and ready to turn. If salt is used while the meat is raw, some of the flavorful juices are drawn out of the large areas of exposed meat. Using two spoons to turn the steak will help prevent the juice from running out from a cut surface made by a fork, or if a fork is used stick it in the fat.

If there is an extra bit of butter in your pantry, the steak will be at its best if buttered lightly on both sides and salted after it is done and ready to serve. Rubbing the steak with onion or

garlic, or spreading lightly with mustard will add a delightful change in flavor. It goes without saying that any steak should be served on a piping hot platter as soon after it is cooked as possible.

The less tender cuts of steak, such as round, rib, chuck, flank, and blade steaks, demand more time and effort in preparation and cooking, but if properly done are delicious and tempting. Because they come from the parts of the animal that are exercised there is tough connective tissue that must be broken down to result in a tender steak. This is done by cooking slowly in moist heat, and sometimes the tenderizing process is further hastened by the addition of an acid such as vinegar, tomato or lemon juice to the water or liquid around the meat. Pounding the meat with or without flour also breaks down the tough tissues and cuts down on the cooking time. This method of cooking is called braising, and one of the best known examples is Swiss steak.

To braise a steak, first pound flour into the meat, then brown in a small amount of fat to give a richer flavor. Cook slowly in its own juices, or in a small amount of added liquid such as water, liquid from vegetables, milk or meat stock. A Dutch oven, casserole, a waterless or fireless cooker, a pressure cooker, or any heavy utensil with a tight fitting cover would be suitable for braising. The cover must fit tightly to keep in the moisture and flavor. Never allow the water or liquid to boil, but keep it simmering throughout the entire cooking period. The steak may be cooked entirely on top of the stove over a low flame, or after it has been browned it may be placed in a low or moderate oven and cooked in this manner.

Swiss Steak

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. flour	1 peeled medium onion, minced
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt	2c. canned tomatoes,
$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. pepper	tomato juice, or
2 lbs. round steak,	hot water
$\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick	
4 T. fat	

Combine the flour, salt and pepper. Spread half of this mixture on a board and top with the steak. Sprinkle the remaining flour on top of the steak, and pound the flour into the steak with a wooden mallet or a meat tenderer, turning occasionally. Saute the meat in fat in a skillet until golden brown on both sides; add the onion and tomatoes,

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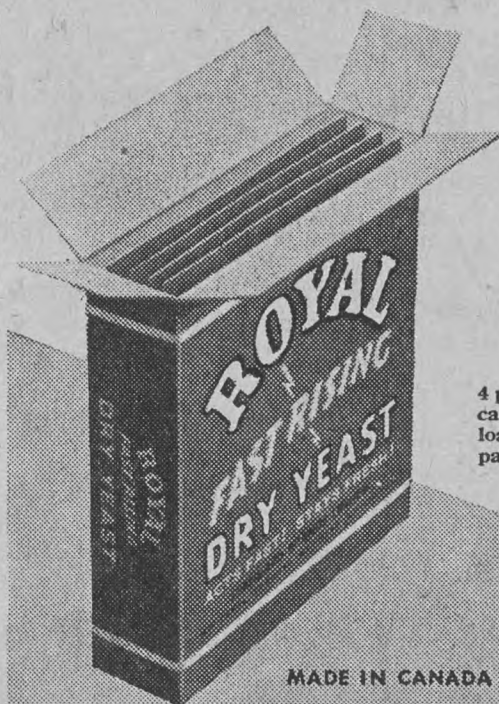
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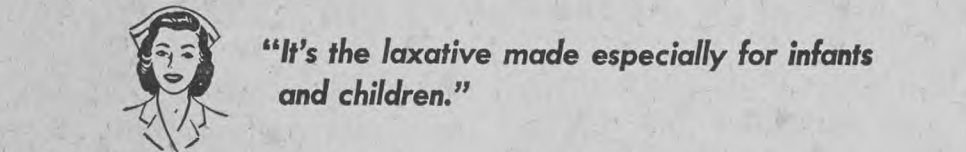
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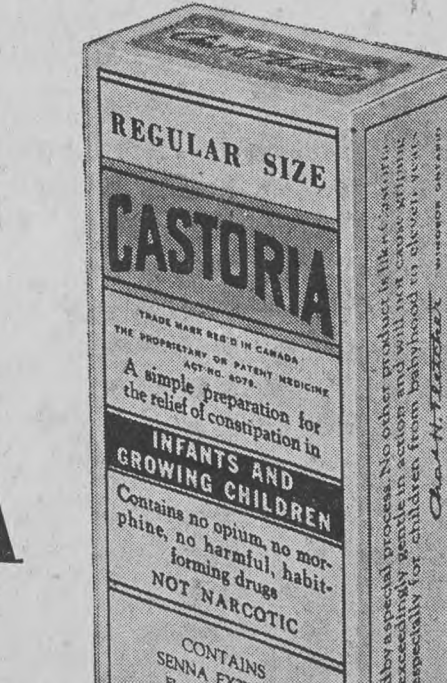
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cover and bake in a moderate oven of 350 degrees Fahr. for two hours, or until meat is tender. Serves 6. To vary, a quarter cup each of diced celery, carrots, and turnips may be added. Serve with or without horseradish sauce.

Flank Steak
2 lbs. flank steak
4 T. vinegar
2 T. water
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 T. flour
2 T. melted fat or beef dripping
1/2 c. chopped onion
1/4 c. chopped green pepper
1 c. tomato juice
1 c. water

Score the meat. Cut into pieces the size of an average serving. Combine vinegar, water, salt and pepper, and pour over the steak. Allow to stand for two hours or more. Dredge steak with flour and brown in hot fat. Arrange steak alternately in greased casserole with onion, peppers, tomato juice and water. Cover and bake in a moderate oven (325 degrees Fahr.) for two to two and a half hours.

Smothered Round Steak
3 slices fat salt pork, 3 by 4 inches
1 onion, cut in thin slices
2 lb. round steak
1 1/2 c. cold water
1/4 tsp. salt
1 T. butter
2 T. flour

Fry pork and add onion. Cook, stirring constantly, until onion is browned. Add water and salt. Bring quickly to boiling point, add steak, cover closely, lower heat, and simmer until meat is tender. Remove steak to hot platter and strain stock, of which there should be one cup. Melt butter, add flour, and stir until well blended; then pour on hot stock gradually, while stirring constantly. Bring to boiling point, season with salt and pepper and pour over steak. Serves 6.

Stuffed Steak
2 lbs. flank or round steak
1 c. crumbs
1/2 c. stock or water
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 T. chopped onion
1/4 c. chopped celery
1 small turnip, diced
1 small carrot, diced

The meat should be cut from a half to one inch thick. Wipe steak with a damp cloth and place meat flat on a board. Combine crumbs, stock or water, salt, pepper, chopped onion, and quarter cup celery. Spread on meat. Roll steak with the grain, so meat will slice across grain when it is cut. Place remaining vegetables in roasting pan and place meat on top. Add two or three cups water, depending on size of pan. Cover and bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees Fahr.) three hours or until tender.

To cook on top of the stove, melt half cup suet in a flat-bottomed heavy kettle, flour meat roll and place in kettle. Turn from side to side until it is well browned, then add two or three cups hot water, cover and simmer for three hours or until meat is tender. When meat is cooked remove from kettle and thicken broth, using one to two tablespoonfuls flour to each cup of broth.

For variation the steak could be stuffed with sausage or potato stuffing.

span of the plane would not permit of easy clearance of telephone or power lines and because the wider gauge of airplane wheels would not accommodate to traffic paths.

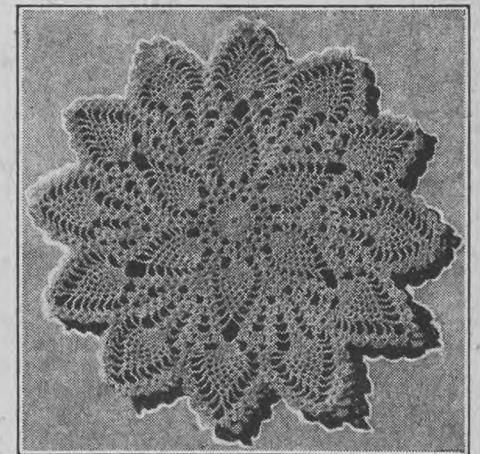
THERE is a flat rate of \$25 for a mercy flight as long as the emergency is guaranteed by a doctor. Extension or outside trips may be engaged, as for example in the case of a Saskatchewan man, hurt in an auto accident near Spokane, Washington, or a patient in a Saskatchewan hospital who had to be taken on a stretcher to his home in Minneapolis. In addition to the base rate there is in such a case a charge of \$40 per hour for the flight out and return, which just covers operation costs.

Keith Malcolm admits that he is "wrapped up in this air ambulance job." In an interview he explained its points: "On the surface the service may appear dangerous, but it is actually safe. Our planes are fully equipped with radio. We have two-way radio communication up to a range of about 200 miles. We have a working arrangement with the Department of Transport and much of our flying is done 'on the beam' as is regular airline flying. We have the use of established airfields. We have to land on open fields and sometimes that may bump us around a bit. It must be remembered that when we are going into a field like that the patient is not aboard so it is not serious. If we can get into a field, we can also get out of it.

"This job combines a number of interesting features, which to me are fascinating. At times it is like 'bush flying' and we set our course by dead reckoning. It is a little like military flying—that is there is 'search' and 'rescue.' Otherwise it is pretty well conventional flying, except of course we do not fly over mountains."

Saskatchewan may lack mountains for these young and adventurous fliers to cross but it does present great distances. And people living scattered across its vast plains must surely be comforted to know that when an emergency occurs, that there is a quick and comfortable means of transport for those who are very ill and must be taken to hospital.—A. J. ROE.

Pineapple Doily
By ANNE DeBELLE



Design No. C-267.

Now that crochet cottons and crochet hooks are once more finding their way into the shops in quantities, you will want to be armed with a good pattern so that you can start to crochet at least one piece just as soon as you get your first ball of cotton in your hands. For your first selection we have chosen one of the most attractive and popular designs we know—the "Pineapple" doily, using No. 50 cotton. Easy to do and serves many purposes. Pattern is No. C-267, price 20 cents. Address orders to The Country Guide, Needlework Department, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

MERCY FLIGHTS
Continued from page 42

agreed upon and these may be flags or a smoke fire, generally the latter. Saskatchewan's flat prairie land affords many natural landing fields, either in summer or winter. On the first call, made to pick up a patient suffering from acute diabetes, requiring a 50 air-mile flight, it was possible for the plane to taxi up to within 100 feet of the farm house. Usually it is possible for the plane to land and taxi up to within 500 yards of the designated spot, though it may sometimes be advisable to land within a mile or two and transport the patient to the plane either by sleigh or car. Highways are not used as landing strips because the 50-foot wing

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Vanity For Better Looks

Develop a little vanity and replace bad habits with good ones if you would be more attractive

By LORETTA MILLER



Elyse Knox, movie star and home-maker, remembers the importance of correct posture.

A LITTLE feminine vanity is a good thing! It makes a girl walk proudly and keep herself looking her best. It discourages habits that make for unattractiveness and builds good habits instead... and good habits are as easy to form as bad ones, and a lot more useful. So, with a sincere desire to make the most of yourself, call it vanity or just being feminine, check over some of your habits and be prepared to discard some of them. I assure you, you will be glad you started this new year right.

First check your fidgets: Are you constantly rubbing soiled fingertips over your face? Your scalp and hair? If so, don't! There's more than one reason why these two fidgets should be abandoned. First, it isn't a very dainty habit and, second, soil rubbed over the face tends to make the skin coarse. It encourages blackheads, too. But if the fingers are first rubbed over soiled scalp, especially if there is dandruff or any real scalp disturbance, the transfer of the soil from scalp and hair to facial skin may cause blemishes.

Discard the scalp and face rubbing fidget at once. If you find it difficult, especially while reading, doing school homework, or sitting leisurely, try this: Keep a button or two, a few dried beans or peas, a coin, or any small object that will keep your fingers occupied and away from your scalp and face.

Bad posture is one of the truly difficult bad habits to break. But realize the possibilities of exchanging this for a habit of standing, walking, sitting correctly and you'll be quick to discard it. Correct posture, plus a few daily stretching exercises will make the tall girl look lovelier and will help add height to the short girl.

CORRECT posture can be one of the first big habits to cultivate. Whether sitting, standing or walking, remember to stretch the body to its full height. Keeping the head up and the back straight will automatically keep the abdominal muscles taut and so help in overcoming figure faults as a result of slumping. Add to correct posture a simple exercise routine that takes but three or four minutes each day, and you'll add to your height. Whenever possible, stand on the balls of the feet, heels raised off the floor. Then as you stretch your torso, raise your arms at the sides, then straight up over your head. Hold this position for a count of five, then bring the arms and heels down. Repeat this exercise every day, at least once and preferably three or four times. The quicker you overcome

bad posture habits, and stretch, the sooner you will add to your height.

Habits must necessarily depend upon the individual. The girl with excessively oily skin will do well to get into the habit of using a cold water rinse after each facial washing, while the girl with extremely dry skin will find it beneficial to rub a tiny bit of lotion or cream over her skin after each cleansing. Too, the skin marred by a blemish or two should be given special care. Cold water rinses should follow each thorough soap and water scrubbing. Then a little witch hazel, bay rum or other liquid with astringent properties should be used. Powder puffs for use on oily or blemished skin should be immaculate. So, for those with this type of skin, get into the habit of carrying little pads of cotton for use when putting on powder. A fresh puff should be used every second or third time.

Attention, mothers of school children: See that your young school age child does not develop the habit of always carrying his or her books the very same way day after day. Books carried, let us say, in a strap and slung over the left shoulder five days each week over a period of years, is all too likely to cause a slight droop in the book-carrying shoulder. You can make a game of this with your young hopeful by having the books carried on the left shoulder one day and the right the next. Alternating this way will not be a burden to either shoulder and good posture will not be damaged.

THE nail biting habit is fast losing popularity, though there are still those who find a childish fascination in this very juvenile habit. Here's where a little vanity comes to the rescue to break a bad habit. And here too, is where busy hands will help. A bracelet fastened around the wrist will often keep little fingers busy. An ideal bracelet for this can be made out of kernels of corn strung on a stout string or thread, and made with a few dangles, to keep fidgety fingers occupied. (Incidentally, vegetable dyes can be used for making these bracelets harmonize with little dresses or hair ribbons.)

Brushing the hair at least once each day and the teeth two or three times are habits that should begin early in life. Almost any six year old can brush her own teeth, and should be taught the correct procedure before she gets into the habit of brushing them wrong. After the dentifrice has been put on the brush, it should be placed on the gums, close to the teeth. Upper teeth should be brushed downward and lower teeth upward. The regular up and down movement should not be encouraged. The backs of the teeth should be brushed the same as the fronts. This correct movement does not encourage receding gums and is strongly urged by dentists.

CULTIVATE these good habits if you want to encourage good looks. See that your washcloth is thoroughly rinsed out and ready for the next time, each time you use it. Also, by washing your face, ears and neck well, you'll not leave telling marks on the towel.

A little vanity is important! It encourages the young boy and girl to take pride in her or his school work, clothes, behavior and to serve as a helper to parents. The 'teen-ager with a bit of vanity is a better student, more attractive, and appreciative of her possessions, while the woman with vanity becomes a proud home-maker, takes great pride in her family, and is more attractive.

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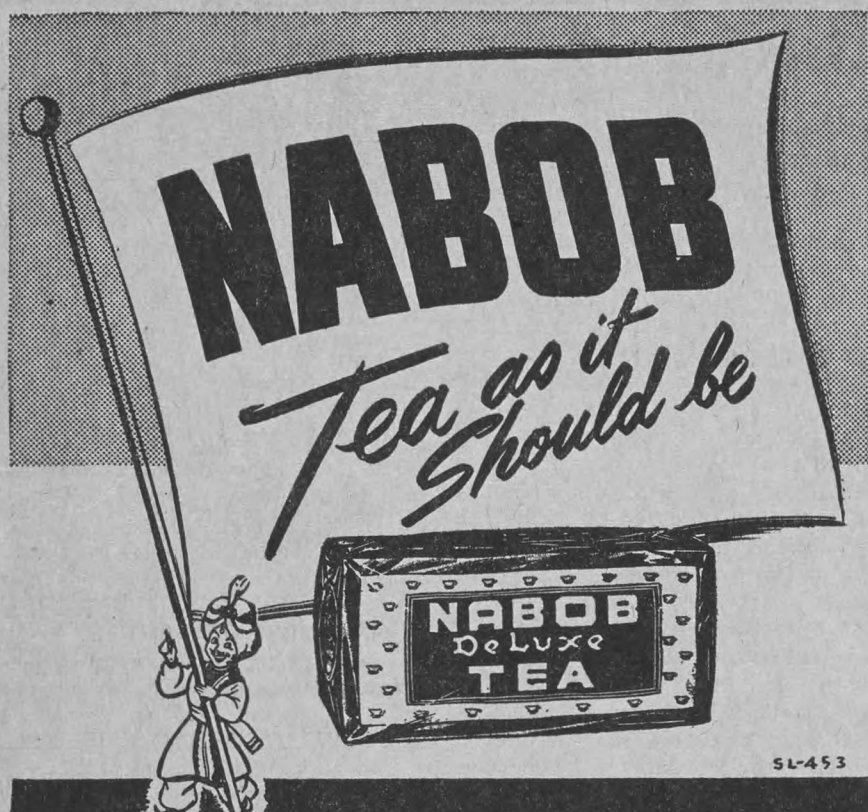


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GRAND RELIEF
FROM SINUS PAIN**

IT'S REALLY FINE to feel soothing relief from sinus pain start to come the moment you put a little Vicks Va-tro-nol in each nostril. Just a few drops...and relief comes fast because this specialized medication works *right where trouble is*...to ease painful distress and bring comforting relief. Here's how Va-tro-nol works to speed effective relief—3-ways at once...

QUICKLY Va-tro-nol (1) helps shrink swollen membranes (2) eases irritation (3) helps clear out congestion and so gives sinuses a chance to drain. Millions swear by it. You, too, will like the way it works...the fine relief it brings. Get a bottle of Vicks Va-tro-nol—today!

**MIGHTY HELPFUL TO EASE
DISTRESS OF ACUTE CATARRH**

VICKS VA-TRO-NOL

Feathers

MOST of us seem to have forgotten all the serviceable and beautiful things that can be made out of poultry feathers. And contrary to general belief, stripped body-feathers either alone or mixed with the down make far better quilts and pillows than the down by itself. If you wash and sterilize feathers in the proper way, you will find that you will be well repaid for time and work. If you have a quantity of feathers you might find a good market for them.

If you use them yourself you will be well repaid with all the beautiful quilts and pillows that you will be able to make. If you are preparing the feathers for the market, you will have to keep each kind of poultry separate, and you will find that duck and geese feathers will bring the best price, and that white feathers of any kind will bring a better price than colored ones.

When plucking the fowl, divide the feathers into three piles; sheets of newspaper will do very well for this purpose. On the first pile put all the wing and tail-feathers, on the second pile the body-feathers, and on the third all the down and very small feathers. Throw the pin-feathers away. Now you will have to strip the body-feathers. This is very simple and with a little practice, you will find that it takes very little time. Just hold the feather by the tip and tear off both sides, add the soft feathery part to your third pile with the down and small feathers, and throw the stems away.

Now make a nice lather with hot water and any good soap powder, and pound and squeeze the feathers thoroughly, and then rinse in several clean waters. Pack them loosely in muslin bags and hang up to dry, in a good draught if possible. If there is a nice breeze blowing so much the better.

When they are thoroughly dry sprinkle them with a two per cent solution of any non-corrosive disinfectant, put them in thin paper bags, either seal or tie up the tops, and place them in a very slow oven and leave them there until the bags begin to scorch. A good idea is to leave them in these bags until you are ready to use them. — ALBERT E. MORRIS.

Prodigal

By GILEAN DOUGLAS

*I shall go home to my mountains.
I shall step down
From the train into mountain stillness;
Noise of the town
And yammer of harried faces
Will fade behind.
Gently the deep night silence,
Cooling and kind,
Will enfold me. Nothing will stir
On the trail to my cabin;
Feather and fur
Will know I was lost and sickened
With light and sound,
That I must go softly, slowly,
Feeling the ground
Firm again under my feet,
Fitting the sky
Securely over my head.
I shall not cry:
"Alas and but and if only!"
I shall stand tall
Among my dear mountains, saying
No word at all.*

GOOD IDEAS

A Catalog of Needlework
for Country Guide Readers

This book is crammed with lovely needlework suggestions and available patterns. Twenty-four pages specially designed for women who like to make beautiful things.

Price, 20 cents postpaid.

Address all orders to . . .

NEEDLEWORK DEPARTMENT
The Country Guide

Winnipeg • • • Manitoba

This Home-Mixed Cough Relief Is Splendid

No Cooking. Very Easy. Saves Dollars.

To get really surprising relief from coughs due to colds, you can easily prepare a medicine, right in your own kitchen. It's very easy—anyone can do it—needs no cooking, and tastes so good that children take it willingly. But you'll say it's hard to beat, for quick results.

First, make a syrup by stirring 2 cups of granulated sugar and one cup of water a few moments, until dissolved. (Or you can use corn syrup or liquid honey, instead of sugar syrup.) Then get 2½ ounces of Pinex from any druggist, and pour it into a 16 ounce bottle. Fill up with your syrup. This makes 16 ounces of really splendid cough syrup—about four times as much for your money. It never spoils, and lasts a family a long time.

And for quick relief, it is actually splendid. It works in three ways—loosens phlegm, soothes irritated membranes, and helps clear the air passages.

Pinex is a special compound of proven ingredients, in concentrated form, well known for quick action in coughs and bronchial irritations. Money refunded if it doesn't please you in every way.

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For the reader desiring the address of a needlecraft magazine, Mrs. L. K. L., Minnesota, writes: "I'm sure the needlework lover would like Aunt Ellen's WORKBASKET."

This monthly pattern and direction service brings the latest creations in handcraft and needlework from the country's foremost artists and designers. It is \$2.00 a year in Canada for twelve issues, but no samples are sent because each issue contains large hot iron transfer patterns as well as ideas for such items as doilies, edgings, bedspreads, tablecloths, hats, bags, and baby's things. Orders should be sent to the WORKBASKET, 4558 Westport Station, Kansas City 2, Mo., U.S.A., with currency or money order. If you are not delightfully pleased with the first issue, Aunt Ellen will return your money and you may keep the material you have received without any obligation.

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on "CERTAIN DAYS" of the month?

If female functional monthly disturbances make you suffer cramps, headache, backache, weak, tired, nervous, cranky feelings—at such times try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Pinkham's Compound is a uterine sedative—one of the most effective medicines you can buy to relieve such distress.

**THE
BEST
IN
BEDDING**

Globe

See your Dealer

GLOBE BEDDING CO. LTD.
WINNIPEG CALGARY

For the New Year



No. 2962—Sleep warmly in this nightgown cut like grandmother's. Cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 years, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, and 46 inches bust. Size 36 requires 5 yards 35-inch fabric for long sleeves, 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards 35-inch fabric for short sleeves.

No. 2118 — A flattering housedress with set-in waistband and ruffled yoke. Cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 years, 36, 38, and 40 inches bust. Size 16 requires 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards 35-inch fabric with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards ruffling.



No. 2120—A classic shirt with modern lines. Cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 years, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, and 46 inches bust. Size 16 with the long sleeves requires 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards 39-inch fabric.

No. 2116—The simplicity of line and cut makes this a fashionable dress. Cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 years, 40, 42, 44, 46, and 48 inches bust. Size 36 requires 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards 39-inch fabric with 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ -yards ribbon.



No. 2919—Pretty either as a short housedress or a long housecoat. Cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 years, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, and 46 inches bust. Size 36 (short) requires 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards 35-inch fabric; long requires 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ yards 54-inch fabric.

No. 2684—A dress to keep you in tune with the times. Cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 years, 36, 38, 40, 42, and 44 inches bust. Size 36 requires 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ yards 39-inch fabric, or 3 yards 54-inch fabric.

Patterns
15 cents
each.

No. 2686—This dress with its tied-in-waist, full swinging dirndl skirt and sweetheart neckline will please a little girl. Cut in sizes 2, 4, 6, and 8 years. Size 4 requires 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards 35-inch fabric and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards lace edging.

Be sure to state correct size and number of pattern wanted.

Write address clearly.

Send 15 cents for Fall and Winter magazine which includes a complete sewing guide. Illustrated in color, presenting many pages of charming pattern designs for all ages and occasions.

Address orders to The Country Guide Patterns, Winnipeg.



Suffering China Calls

To Canadian Farmers

WAR has spread wreckage and suffering among the 500,000,000 people of Canada's Pacific neighbor—China.

Blasted from farms and villages millions of Chinese families are homeless, hungry and in rags, dying daily from starvation and disease. China was first to feel the Fascist onslaught. For eight terrible years—from July, 1937, to August, 1945—China heroically breasted the aggressor's hordes. Two years longer than any of her allies!

Farmers Call To Farmers

To-day, China presents a heart-rending spectacle to Canadians mercifully spared the ravages of enemy guns and bombs. And especially to Canadian farmers!

About 83 per cent. of China's 500,000,000 people are peasant farmers. To the scourage of Japanese planes and artillery have been added, in many districts, flood or drought, and shortage of seed grain. Besides the need for food, clothing, medical supplies, hospital equipment, there is urgent need for reconstruction of farms and homes.

Canada's Aid Essential

During the war, Canadians, through The Chinese War Relief Fund, sent to China some \$2,654,000 in money and over 1,464,000 pounds of used clothing, valued at some \$2,929,000. But the aftermath of war can be more terrible than war itself. The world-wide relief work of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (UNRRA) ends March 1st

in China. The burden will fall on voluntary agencies. So Canadian Aid to China (formerly The Chinese War Relief) is making a national appeal. *This is an urgent call to Canadian farmers to support this effort.*

How YOU Can HELP

To make it more convenient for YOU to participate, all Elevator companies have been authorized to receive donations of part of grain deliveries as Aid to China.

When you deliver grain to your Elevator, simply tell the Elevator Agent how many bushels you wish to donate to Canadian Aid to China.

The aim is one per cent. of the storage capacity of each Elevator. Will YOU help to make this possible?

Enlightened Self-Interest

This appeal is to our common humanity as citizens of the One World from which to-day we dare not isolate ourselves. In helping to rehabilitate the Chinese, we are hastening a return to world health and progress.

But we may well remember that China is not only a World Neighbor of Canada, but a good potential customer for our products. In helping her to recover from her war wounds, we are building goodwill and laying the basis of profitable relations in the days to come.

WHAT TO DO

When you deliver grain to your Elevator, simply tell the Elevator Agent how many bushels you wish to donate to CANADIAN AID TO CHINA. Your Agent will make out a ticket in the name of CANADIAN AID TO CHINA for your donation. Official Receipts will be forwarded to you from your Provincial Headquarters for income tax purposes.

No cheque to write, no cash to pay, no mailing to do. It's as simple as that!

CANADIAN FARMERS, BE GENEROUS! CHINA, A GOOD NEIGHBOR, NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This is the only national appeal to be made in Canada during the next twelve months for Chinese relief.

Canadian Aid To China

CUT DOWN ON TAKING LAXATIVES THIS WAY

See How Regular You Can Be Every Morning

Try taking Carter's Pills this way: Start with 3 and set a definite time every morning. When you get regular every morning cut down to 2. After a few days, try 1.

Then try taking Carter's every other day. You may even find you can keep regular without any laxative.

You see, Carter's are so tiny you can cut down the dose—from 3 to 1—to fit the needs of your individual system. Without disappointment.

Carter's help clean out your intestinal tract not halfway, but thoroughly. They are doubly effective because made with two vegetable herbs compounded properly for thorough, easy action.

Thousands can cut down on laxative dosing this Carter way. Ask for Carter's Pills by name to get the genuine at any drugstore—35¢, 70¢, \$1.00. Start the Carter graduated dose method tonight, and jump out of bed tomorrow rarin' to go.

FOR
BRONCHITIS
YOU CAN'T BEAT
BUCKLEY'S MIXTURE

Eczema Itch Eased in 7 Minutes

Your skin has nearly 50 million tiny seams and pores where germs hide and cause Itching, Cracking, Eczema-like Rash, Peeling, Burning Skin Blisters, Pimples, Ringworm, Foot Itch and other skin blemishes. The new treatment Nixoderm soothes the itching in 7 minutes and goes right to work to aid in curbing the germs and should quickly help make your skin clearer, softer, smoother and more attractive. If Nixoderm is not entirely satisfactory, money will be refunded on return of empty package. Get Nixoderm from your druggist today—see how fast it works and how much better you look. The money-back trial offer protects you.

For
YOUR CHILD'S SAKE
Remember these vital
laxative facts!

Ex-Lax is effective, all right—but effective in a gentle way. It won't weaken or upset the children. It won't make them feel bad afterwards.

—it's not too strong!

Ex-Lax can be given to the children with complete confidence. Although it has a fine chocolate taste, its action is thorough and dependable.

—it's not too mild!

Ex-Lax is one laxative that avoids extremes. It works easily and effectively at the same time. In other words, Ex-Lax is

—the Happy Medium!

EX-LAX The Chocolate Laxative
Only 15c. or 35c.

PRICE STABILIZATION

Continued from page 9

Forgetting for a moment the wheat farmers' open-handed, if involuntary, generosity, the immediate effect of de-control would be to raise the cost of bread by an amount equivalent to the government bonus. Consumers got a foretaste of what would happen in the case of milk last October. If, in addition to the cancellation of the government subsidy on wheat for domestic use, the special provision is terminated by which Canadian wheat farmers became the benefactors of the nation, bread prices would soar to levels which would have political repercussions.

Sugar. This country was one of the heaviest per capita consumers of sugar in the world before the war. Its citizens still fare generously by European standards. The beet growing area of Europe was also its main battlefield. Because of the destruction of factories and machinery, and the subsequent removal of more to Russia, the world's sugar position will take years to restore. De-control will not increase the amount on Canadian grocers' shelves. Canadian housewives will simply bid against one another for such supplies as are available. With the removal of price ceilings is there any doubt in any one's mind but what the price of sugar will climb?

In some commodities, as in canned goods, supplies may be plentiful, but the removal of price ceilings at this time of the year would be to hand a gratuity to the distributors and those who happen to have the stuff in their possession rather than to the growers and processors. It would be unfair to have the 1946 crop grown and packed under a rigid price ceiling policy, and then remove controls before the goods have passed into the hands of the consumer. This argument holds good for other commodities, as the Financial Post has argued in the case of cotton.

DURING the war it became difficult to keep up the supply of food which had to be obtained from foreign sources. In many countries conditions became so difficult that governments had to step in to ensure a supply. Bulk purchase became the rule in many leading commodities. Canada obtained a great deal of her imported food through bulk purchasing in larger quantities and at lower prices than could have been obtained through ordinary trade agencies. In some countries the gains from bulk purchasing have been so considerable that it is being continued as a permanent policy. Witness the closing of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange.

But bulk purchasing is anathema to conservative business men. It is an assault on the very citadel of orthodoxy. No voice has been raised in Canada to speak for it. When the emergency regulations terminate, people of this country will have to make do with what importers can get in foreign markets.

Consider the case of clothing prices, particularly of cotton clothing. Mr. Gordon asserts that when price ceilings were first established in Canada some way had to be found to stabilize the price of cotton. For cotton and its products play such a part in our daily life that unless cotton prices could be brought under control no effort to stabilize our general price level could have succeeded.

Accordingly an agreement was entered into with the primary cotton mills by which the government undertook to provide the cotton at an average fixed price. The government simply paid part of the cost of cotton in the form of a subsidy to prevent prices rising for clothing and other textiles.

The subsidy system under price control is aimed to keep down the cost of raw materials at the earliest stage of manufacture. This, in turn, prevents one rising price from feeding upwards to another, as it would otherwise do, because each manufacturer, or wholesaler, or retailer who handles the goods adds a percentage of the cost to him, as his profits. The higher the price, the higher the mark-up. Prices pyramid as the goods move toward the consumer. When subsidies are paid and a ceiling imposed the saving made by the consumer far exceeds the amount of tax money which has been paid as subsidy.

The Gordon broadcasts made some predictions as to minimum price increases in clothing if cotton control were killed. The increases were from thirty to forty-two per cent. Having regard to the American experience on the cessation of controls one is forced to believe that if Mr. Gordon erred it was on the side of conservatism.

As in the case of many other products, consumers will not be fooled into believing that the end of controls would increase materially the amount of clothing on the market. All of us grumble at the difficulty of getting what we want, yes, even what we need. But the shortage is one of the attendant disorders of war. It will continue for awhile longer regardless of the fate of control legislation. The one certain result of the abolition of control is that Canadians would feel the consequences of world-wide disorder more severely than at present.

Price policy on fuel is largely tied to rent control. The cost of heating is the biggest single item of expense for many landlords. To let fuel prices go up without a compensating advance in rents would work a hardship on property owners.

RENTAL policy has been all along one of the hardest nuts for the government to crack. Housing is perhaps our acutest shortage, certainly in urban areas and one which will remain with us longest. House owners complain that their frozen rentals do not give a reasonable return on their investments. They point to the increased cost of labor, coal, repairs, and other maintenance charges. And yet, a relaxation of rent and eviction controls would force many tenant families to move out of their homes, scrambling with each other for some place to go, and bidding rentals up beyond all reason in an effort to find shelter from this stern climate.

Consideration for the tenant was conspicuously absent in the United States when the agitation was on for a removal of controls. The National Association of American Real Estate Boards hired two economists, Stigler and Friedman to produce a brief which was widely circulated and vigorously supported. It was all very simple to the professors. Abolish control and homes could be found for all by the process of doubling up which would be bound to follow. No highwayman's code could have been more remorseless.

After a year or so the average rent increase, they asserted, would not be more than 30 per cent, and would not raise the over-all cost of living by more than five per cent. And their crowning piece of effrontery was the conclusion that high rents would not be inflationary. The extra income received by landlords "would be offset by the decrease in funds available to tenants for the purchase of goods and services." In other words, if the landlord were richer, the tenant would be poorer, and there would be no change in inflationary pressures!

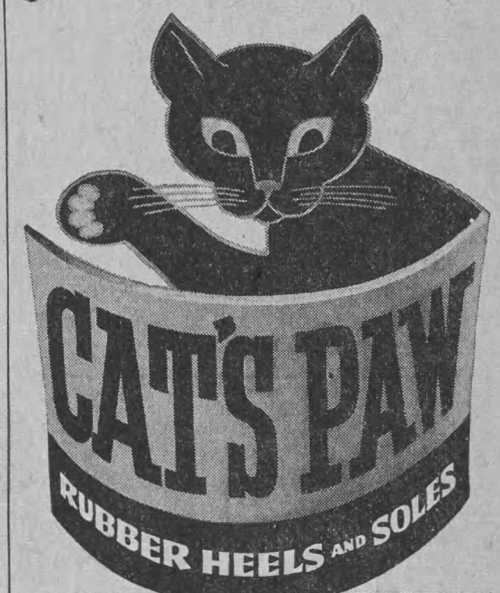
As Mr. Gordon pointed out in his radio addresses however, not all landlords are rapacious. In many cases the income from rentals represents the sole or main income of widows and

Turn to page 53

CANADIAN SPORTSMEN Mount Birds

ANIMALS, Fish, Heads, Pets. Hunters, Trappers, be a Taxidermist. Let this old reliable school teach you—at home, in spare time. More than 20,000 students in CANADA. Save your fine trophies. Mount and keep ducks, deer, ALL wild-game. Tan skins, make robes and rugs, double your interest in HUNTING AND FISHING. Have a home museum.

Free Book Yes, FREE, this great strange book, with 100 fine wild-game pictures. Tells how YOU can become a real TAXIDERMIST, easily and quickly. It is amazing, thrilling, and may bring you a lifetime of PLEASURE and PROFIT. SPORTSMEN, grasp this opportunity. SEND NOW. A postal will do. But WRITE TODAY—don't fail. State your age. **N. W. SCHOOL OF TAXIDERMY** 35-M ELWOOD BLDG., OMAHA 2, NEBR., U.S.A.

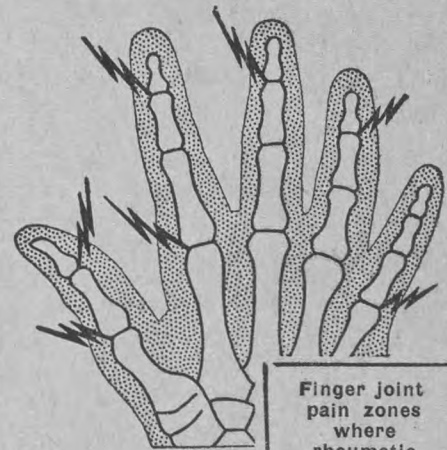


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Finger joint pain zones where rheumatic aches manifest themselves so frequently

CUT THIS OUT
75c Box Free to Any Sufferer

In Syracuse, New York, there has been developed a home treatment for Rheumatic Pains and Misery known as "Delano's" that hundreds of users say brings results. Many report that after a few days' use pain and soreness had gone and blessed relief was received after everything else had failed.

Mr. Delano writes: "To help sufferers, no matter how severe, stubborn or long-standing these pains and misery have bothered you, I will gladly, if you have never tried my method, send you a full-size 75c package free. No obligation. The test is free and the test should tell. If this free test helps you as so many others say it has helped them, you will surely be glad. Simply cut out this notice and mail, with your name and address. If you wish, you may enclose 10 cents to help pay postage and distributed, but this is not a requirement."

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FREE . . . Delano's—Specially for Rheumatic Pains and Misery
Note: This is an honest, open and above board offer that should appeal to all who suffer from rheumatic pains and misery.

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For common ordinary sore throat

JUST RUB ON

MINARD'S "KING OF PAIN" LINIMENT

35¢

The Country Boy and Girl

The Little Snowman

By MARY E. GRANNAN.

HE was the biggest snowman in the world once. He stood on the snow-covered geranium bed in the park looking like King Winter himself. Everyone who went by would stop to look at him. And everyone would say, "Look at that snowman. He's the biggest snowman in the world. I've never seen the like of him. He's wonderful."

And the biggest snowman began to agree with them, and told the sparrow who came to sit on his tall hat, "I'm the most wonderful snowman in the world. I not only think so myself . . . but everyone else does too."

The sparrow laughed, and his wings twinkled the snowman's brow.

"What are you doing?" asked the snowman indignantly. "You'll upset my eyebrows if you don't watch out."

"I'm laughing," said the sparrow. "But I do beg your pardon . . . it would be too bad to upset the eyebrows of so grand a fellow."

"I am grand, am I not," smiled the snowman and his coal eyes glittered in the winter sunlight. "In fact I'm the grandest person in the park." And he turned up his snow nose until it almost touched the brim of his hat.

"Hey! You'd better be careful!" said the sparrow as he backed a little out of the way of the snow nose. "You're going to spoil your face. If you look the way you're looking now, the children won't laugh at you any more."

"Who wants to be laughed at?" asked the snowman. "Not I, to be sure. And who cares for children anyway?"

The sparrow looked most surprised at that. "Why," he said, "if it weren't for children you wouldn't be standing on the geranium bed. They made you. They made you so they could laugh."

"Stupid little things!" said the snowman.

"Not nearly as stupid as you, Mr. Snowman. They know a great deal more than you do!"

"I don't believe it," said the snowman. "What do they know?"

"They know what two and two makes . . . and six times seven . . . do you?" asked the sparrow, bending over the crown of the hat to see the effect his words had on the biggest snowman. "Do you know what two and two and six times seven makes?"

"No . . . ooooo!" said the snowman. "How did they find out?"

"They went to school," said the sparrow, "and they learned."

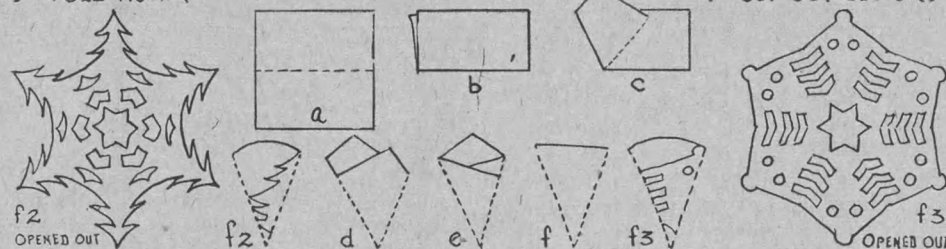
"Where is the school?" asked the snowman.

"Over there, on the other side of the park. Why?"

"Oh, nothing," said the snowman. But he'd made up his mind about something. He was going to school that night. In the morning he would be just as smart as the children. And that night, when everyone had gone to bed, the snowman crossed the park and went into the school-house. It was very warm there and the biggest snowman began to melt . . . and he shrunk and he shrunk until he was not much bigger than a baby doll and he didn't find out what two and two made . . . nor six times seven. There was no one there to tell him. He went back to the park. His hat was now so big it was resting on his shoulders. The coal eyes looked like pie plates in his tiny face.

In the morning the sparrow came back to the geranium bed. He couldn't believe his eyes, nor could the people

a - SQUARE b - FOLD IN CENTER c - FOLD 1a TO 1b. d - FOLD 1b OVER 1a. e - FOLD AGAIN f - CUT OUT DESIGN.



A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU, READERS! May 1947 be the happiest year you have ever known! With a new year we think at once of New Year's resolutions—it's a good idea to try one wise resolution that you will work hard to keep rather than many resolutions which you soon give up.

Did you ever wonder just what a single snowflake looked like? A good way to see the shape of one is to hold a dark piece of cloth outdoors when a soft snow is falling and catch the flakes. How tiny and feathery the snowflakes look, each one a tiny glistening jewel! Did you know that although all snowflakes are six-pointed yet no two snowflakes have the same design? Just think of the millions of designs which your mother could copy from the snowflakes for those pretty lacey doilies she crochets!

Would you like to make some snowflakes? Just follow the steps as they are shown in the sketches. White tissue paper would make your "snowflakes" dainty and if you mount them on pieces of colored paper the designs will show up much better. You can make many different patterns by drawing different outlines on your folded paper.

Ann Sankey

who passed by. "Look at the big snowman."

"Big?" said someone. "He's the littlest snowman now. I wonder what could have happened to him."

"What did happen to you, Mr. Snowman?" asked the sparrow.

"I went to school," said the snowman. "I didn't want the children to know more than I . . . I was very silly."

"Yes, you were," said the sparrow. "You see you became so proud. You should have been glad instead of proud. Your place is not in a school-house. It's

out in the geranium bed making children laugh. And now look at you."

"Yes," sighed the snowman. "If I'd only been satisfied to be myself. Now I can't even make children laugh."

But he was wrong. On the way to school the children saw him and they howled with merriment. "Look! Look at the funny snowman! His hat is too big . . . his eyes are too big . . . isn't he funny?"

And the biggest snowman, now the littlest snowman, was happy. He was doing his job now, and doing it well.

What Do You Want To Be?

Would You Like To Be A Teacher?

TEACHING is a career in which you can serve your community and help to make this world a better place. Teachers pass along new ideas and thoughts from one generation to the next and in this way man improves his way of living and progresses.

At one time the schools taught only reading, writing and arithmetic but today the field of teaching offers many different lines of work such as shop work, athletics and foreign languages. Vocational schools of today offer courses in many trades such as barbering, printing, art and aviation.

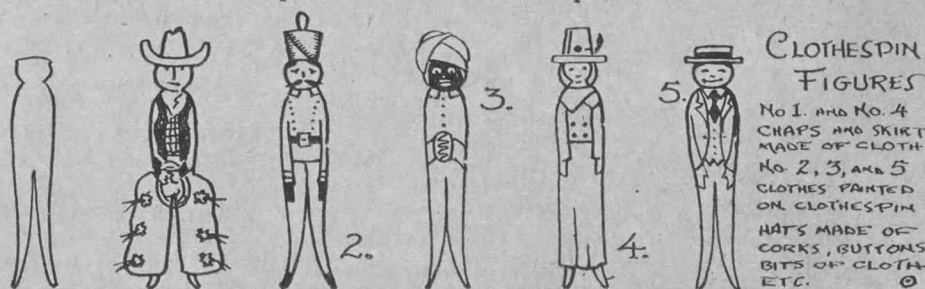
Before you decide on teaching for your career, let us see what personal qualities are necessary for a teacher. Are you a good scholar? The teacher like the doctor and lawyer must keep up with new methods in education. He or she may never stop learning. The character and personality of a teacher are as important as his knowledge. Patience, leadership and sincerity are as necessary as an understanding of mathematics or history. You know that you found some of your own school years more enjoyable than others just because your teacher had won your confidence and admiration; she made you "like to study" even difficult subjects.

To prepare for this profession you must complete your senior high school, then attend Normal School or University. Teachers for the lower grades generally attend Normal School while high school teachers take University training before they enter a course in teacher training. The Normal School course is a one-year course, while the

high school teacher will spend four years at University, then one year at the Faculty of Education for instruction in teaching methods.

In teaching as in other professions specialists are at the top. Pick out the one subject that interests you most, then do your best to learn all you can about it besides reading on your own to increase your knowledge. In this way you get a chance to teach the subject you like the most whether it be athletics, English, shop-work or chemistry. You will get many chances to teach fellow students who are having difficulties with their work. This is valuable training, for you must be able to make a student "see the point" by reasoning step by step with him.

Teaching is pleasant work for those who love their work and are fitted to do it. The teacher works hard during the school term but has a long summer holiday as well as a five-day week. That does not mean that the teacher has finished his work when the students have gone home for he must be constantly preparing his outlines for future lessons. Also the teacher often does considerable work in organizing out of school activities such as sports.



CLOTHESPIN FIGURES
No 1. and No. 4
CHAPS AND SKIRT
MADE OF CLOTH
No. 2, 3, and 5
CLOTHES PANTS
ON CLOTHESPIN
HATS MADE OF
CORKS, BUTTONS
BITS OF CLOTH
ETC.

At present the demand for teachers is great for one teacher is required for every 30 students and our population is increasing. Do not enter the teaching profession to gain great wealth or fame but only if you sincerely desire to gather knowledge in order to pass on your findings to future generations. The Registrar of the Department of Education in the capital city of your province can give you further information on this profession.—A.T.

Do You Want To Be A Nurse?

Nursing: If you are sympathetic to the sufferings of other people and interested in their well being you may find your career in nursing. Good health is absolutely necessary for a nurse as during her training and after she comes in contact with many diseases. You must be prepared to do all kinds of tasks cheerfully and willingly even though you find them unpleasant. Making your patient comfortable and happy comes before your own personal likes, so you see that a nurse must be a very unselfish person.

Complete your high school course choosing all the science subjects and Latin, then you are ready to enter a hospital where your three-year nursing course begins. Rules are strict for nurses in training; they are permitted only a limited number of nights away from the residence and must be in bed at a certain hour.

During your training period you may be paid a small sum of money each month, in addition to your board and room, depending on the hospital you train in. After graduation you may choose public health nursing such as your school nurse does or you may prefer to take private cases or work in a hospital or clinic.

Write to the department of health in your province and ask them to send you material on the various hospitals. Keep this literature mounted in a scrap book in your school library. Your school nurse might tell you about the hospital from which she graduated.—A.T.

Pack Your Trunk

PLAYERS sit in a circle, and the first begins, "I packed my trunk to go away and put in a pair of shoes." The next player repeats the same words, and adds some other article, such as a coat, socks, etc. Players who forget to mention one of the articles, drop out. The player who lasts longest is winner.—A.T.

Clothes-pin People

YOU'LL love to make these funny clothes-pin people—the jolly soldier, the daring cowboy, the quaint Puritan lady, the mysterious Hindoo and the dapper little man. With paint or ink draw the faces and shoe parts right on the clothes-pins. Make the hats of cork or buttons and use a bright bit of cloth for the lady's skirt and the cowboy's chaps. You can use these figures for dolls, curtain pulls, potted plant decorations or for prizes at a party. There's no limit to the number of comic figures you can fashion from a clothes-pin.—A.T.

Handy Readers' Reference to Guide Advertisers of 1946

Herewith The Country Guide supplies its readers with an Annual Directory to all display advertisers who have used its columns during 1946. From time to time readers write us asking about ads. they have seen but cannot locate in their back issues. It is hoped that this Annual Directory will help solve this problem for them and for others who may not have thought to write us.

The Directory shows the name of each display advertiser and lists the product or products he has advertised in The Guide during 1946. In addition, those adver-

tisers who are offering our readers literature, samples, etc., are numbered. For readers who may desire any of this material a coupon is provided on page 53. Please write your name and address plainly and enter the number or numbers corresponding with the items you want.

Where any conditions such as postage, labels, etc., are required, same is noted and must be sent in with your coupon.

ADVERTISER	PRODUCT ADVERTISED	OFFER TO READERS
Abbey's Salts	Headache Remedy	
N. C. Abercrombie	Books For Sale	
Aeroxon	Fly Catchers	
Alta. Linseed Oil	"Alox" Livestock Supplement	
1 Alta. Livestock Assn.	Livestock Sales	Free Catalog.
Aluminum Co.	"Wear-Ever" Cooking Utensils, Aluminum Paint	
J. H. Andrews	Tintex Dyes	
2 Animal Trap Co.	Victor Animal Traps	Free Book
3 S. A. Annand	B.C. Real Estate	Information.
Anstey Electric Hatchery	Baby Chicks	
Arctic Refrigeration	Cold Storage Plants	
Atlas Watch Repair Co.	Watch Repairs	
4 Automatic Equipment Co.	Automatic Oiler-Currier	Information (specify).
5 Auto Wrecking	Used and New Auto Parts; Trailers	Free Catalog.
Avenue Photo	Photographic Service	
6 Ayerst, McKenna & Harrison	Veterinary Remedies	Free List.
7 Ball Clinic	Rheumatism Remedy	Free Book.
8 Banff School of Fine Arts	Art School	Prospectus.
9 Bank of Montreal	Banking Service	Free Folder
Bank of Nova Scotia	Banking Service	
Bank of Toronto	Banking Service	
Bar-Dol Mfg. Co.	Lubricants	
Baribeau & Sons	Ampolina Dyes	
Barrett Co.	Storm King Roofing	
Bayer Co. (Aspirin)	Aspirin	
Beattie Auto Electric Ltd.	Magnetos	
10 Beery School of Horsemanship	Horse Training and Breeding courses	Free Booklet.
Best Yeast	"Hi-Do" Yeast	
Bollivar Hatcheries	Baby Chicks	
Boston Varnish Co.	"Kyanize" Enamel, Paint and Varnishes	
Boyle Midway	Black Flag Barn Spray	
Brantford Cordage Ltd.	Binder Twine	
Bray Hatchery	Baby Chicks	
Bristol Myers Ltd. (Ipana)	Ipana Tooth Paste	
British American Oil Ltd.	Petroleum Products	
British American Paint Co.	Satin-Glo Enamels and Varnishes	
B.C. Baby Chick Co-op Assn.	Baby Chicks	
B.C. Sugar Refining Co.	Syrup	
11 Brooks Appliance	Rupture Remedy	Free Trial Offer and Book.
P. D. Brown	Spinning Wheels	
12 Brown & Murray	Magneto Repairs	Exchange Plan.
W. K. Buckley	Cough and Cold Remedy	
Building Products	Building Materials	
Burgess Battery Ltd.	Radio and Flashlight Batteries	
Burns & Co.	"Vigor" Livestock Feeds	
13 Burnside Poultry Farm	Baby Chicks	Catalog.
14 Byers Flour Mills	Sunny Boy Cereal	Free Indian Stamp Map.
15 Calgary Exhibition & Stampede	Exhibition and Stampede	Information.
Campana Corp.	Italian Balm Skin Lotion	
Can. Aberdeen Angus Assn.	Aberdeen-Angus Cattle	
Can. Bank of Commerce	Banking Service, Annual Report	
Can. Bankers Assn.	Banking Service	
Can. Carborundum Co.	Sharpening Tools	
16 Can. Cement Co. Ltd.	Concrete	Free Booklet (specify)
Can. Co-op. Wool Growers	Wool Wanted	
Can. Cycle & Motor Ltd.	Bicycles	
17 Can. Fairbanks-Morse Ltd.	Farm Equipment	Free Booklet (specify)
Can. Industries Ltd.	Insecticide, Livestock Supplement, Warble Powder, Salt, Ceresan, Deenate	
18 Can. Investigators Institute	Detective Training	Information.
19 Can. Johns-Mansville Ltd.	Building Materials	Booklet (specify and 10c)
Can. Malting Co.	Malting Barley Regulations	
Can. National Carbon Co.	Batteries	
Can. National Express Co.	Express Money Order	
Can. Oil Companies	White Rose Petroleum Products	
Can. Pacific Railway	Transportation Company	
Can. Packers Ltd.	Annual Report	
Can. Poultryman	Publication	
Can. Publishers Institute	Agents Wanted	
Can. Shredded Wheat Co. Ltd.	Shredded Wheat	
Can. Von Co.	Indigestion Remedy	
Can. Western Cordage	Rope	
Capo Polishes	Floor Wax, Silver Polish, Stock Spray	
Carters Ltd.	Laxative	
J. I. Case Co.	Farm Machinery	
Caterpillar Tractor Co.	Tractors	
Cat's Paw Rubber Co.	Rubber Heels and Soles	
Centaur Co. (Castoria)	Castoria (Children's Laxative)	
Centaur Co. (Ironized Yeast)	Ironized Yeast (Anemia Remedy)	
20 Chantler & Chantler	"Windolite" Screen Glass	Information.
Chase Medicine Co.	Cold Remedy, Nerve Food	
21 Chatfield's Ltd.	Chesterfield Suites	Catalog.
Chesebrough Mfg.	Vaseline	
22 Chicago Vocational School	Vocational School	Free Information.
23 Chipman Chemical	Warble Fly Powder, Weed Killer	Free Information.
Christie Brown & Co.	Biscuits	
Church & Dwight Ltd.	Cow Brand Baking Soda	
City Machinery	Machinery Repairs	
Clarings Ltd.	D.D.T. Insecticide	
24 Cockshutt Plow Co.	Farm Implements	Information.
Coffield Washer	Washing Machines	
25 Coleman Lamp Co.	Lanterns and Lamps	Free Booklet.
26 L. S. Coles Hatchery	Baby Chicks	Price List.
Congleum (Canada) Co.	Gold Seal Rugs	
Consolidated Mining & Smelting	Elephant Brand Fertilizer	
27 Consumers Cordage	Rope	Free Booklet.
Continental Farm Machine Co.	Post Hole Digger	
Coutts Machinery Co.	Feed Grinder	
Craig Mfg. Co.	Bread Knife	
Cudahy Packing	Old Dutch Cleanser	
Cunningham's	Hair Restorer, etc.	
James Cunningham Son & Co.	Mowers	
28 Custom Woollen Mills	Weaving Service	Free Catalog.
Cuthbert Co.	Hydraulic Loader	
Cutter Labs.	Animal Diseases Control	
29 Dairy Assn. Co.	"Kow Kare," Bag Balm Dilators	Free Book.
D.D.D. Co.	Skin Remedy	
John Deere Plow Co.	Farm Equipment Company	
30 F. H. Delano	Rheumatism Remedy	Trial Offer (10c).
DeLaval Co. Ltd.	Milkers and Separators	
Dental Clinic	False Teeth Cleaned	
Diecast Products	Tractor Storm Hat	
Dom. Gov. (Food Conservation)	Food Conservation	
Dom. Gov. (Savings Bonds)	Savings Bonds	
Dom. Gov. (Sugar Conservation)	Sugar Conservation	
Dom. Gov. (Travel Bureau)	Tourist Information	
Dom. Gov. (W.P.T.B.)	Farmers' Bulletins	
Dom. Oilcloth Ltd.	Marbleum Linoleum	
Dom. Rubber Ltd.	Rubber Footwear, Tires	
31 Dom. Seed House	Garden Seeds	Free Seed and Nursery Book.
Dom. Textiles Ltd.	Textile Company Report	
Doubleday One Dollar Book Club	Book Club	
32 Early Hatcheries	Baby Chicks	Catalog.
S. A. Early	Grass and Clover Seed Wanted	
T. Eaton Co.	Mail Order House	
33 Economy Mail Order	Photographic Supplies	Free Price List.
Electric Auto-Lite	Auto-lite Batteries, Spark Plugs, etc.	
34 Electric Equipment Co.	Belts and Pulleys, Electric Light Plants	Free Catalog.
Eliks Drug Co.	Skin Remedy	
T. H. Estabrooks Ltd.	Red Rose Coffee	
Ex-Lax Co.	Laxative (Chocolate Coated)	
Fa'rview Chemical	Household Cleanser	
35 Fetherstonhaugh & Co.	Patent Service	Free Particulars.
Findlays Ltd.	Stoves	
Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.	Tires, Automotive Accessories	
Fleet Aircraft	Aeroplanes	
36 Fleischer & Schmid	Tractor Seat Attachment	Information (specify).
Flcury-Bissell Co.	Farm Equipment	
Flexible Shaft	Stewart Clipping and Shearing Machines	
37 Fraser Chickeries	Baby Chicks	Price List.
Fry-Cadbury Co.	Cocoa	
38 O. M. Franklin Co.	Livestock Loss Prevention	Catalog.
Fur Trade Journal	Fur Trade Magazine	
E. B. Gass & Son	Turbine Sprayer	
General Motors of Can. Ltd.	A. C. Spark Plugs	
General Steel Wares Co.	Steel Wares Company	
39 Gihelitte Batteries	Batteries (Light Plants)	Details.
Globe Bedding	Beds, Springs, Mattresses; Goose and Duck Feathers Wanted	

ADVERTISER	PRODUCT ADVERTISED	OFFER TO READERS
40 F. H. Godfrey	Asthma Remedy	Trial Offer (10c).
41 Golden Fleece Mills	Blankets and Wool Batts	Prices and Information.
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	Tractor Tires, Belting, Batteries	
42 Mary T. Goldman	Hair Color Control	Free Booklet (specify).
B. F. Goodrich Co.	Rubber Footwear, Tires	
43 Great Western Garment Co.	Clothing	Free Almanac
44 Groh's Cooler	Electric Fencer, Oat Roller	Free Literature
45 Grollier Society	The Book of Knowledge	Information (specify)
Grove Labs.	Cold Tablets	
Gutta Percha Rubber Co.	Tires, Belts, Rubber Footwear	
46 Dr. Guild	Asthma Remedy	Free Sample
Gypsum, Lime & Alabastine Co.	Alabastine and Gypsee Wallboard	
Habacure Co.	Meat Curing Compound	
J. C. Hallman	Hog Holders, Electric Fencer, Jacks	
47 J. J. Hambley Co.	Baby Chicks	Free Catalog, Calendar.
Edith Hamilton	Baby Chicks	
Chris. Hansen (D.B.C.)	Dandelion Butter Color	
48 W. I. Haskett	Patents	Information.
49 Hansey Hatcheries	Baby Chicks	Catalog, Calendar
Harlanne Art	Sewing Machine Attachments	
50 Health Products	Medical Care	Book (10c).
H. J. Heinz	Vinegar, Baby Foods, Soup, Sauce	
Dr. Hess & Clark Co.	Louse Killer, Stock Tonic, P.T.Z., Hog Special, Pan-A-Min, Coxitrol	
R. M. Hollingshead	Whiz: Tire Preservative	
Holstein-Friesian Assn.	Holstein Cattle	
Hollywood "400" Club	Lonely Hearts Club	
51 Home Study Institute	Business Training	Free Particulars.
52 Hornet Industries	Power Chain Saw	Information.
Hudson's Bay (Fur Dept.)	Fur Trader Opportunities	
53 Hudson's Bay (Land)	Farm Lands For Sale	Free Booklet (specify)
Hudson's Bay Co. (Whsle.)	Tea and Coffee	
Humen Sewing Machine Co.	Sewing Machine Attachments, Sewing Machines	
John A. Huston	Pyrex Ware	
Ideal Mushroom Co.	Mushrooms	
Imperial Bank	Banking Service, Annual Report	
Imperial Oil	Petroleum Products	
Imperial Optical Co.	Eye Care	
Imperial Tobacco	Tobacco	
International Harvester Co.	Farm Machinery, Trucks, Milking Machines	
International Laboratories	Moone's Emerald Oil, Skin Remedy	
54 International Nickel Co.	Nickel Company	Free Booklet
International Varnish	Insecticides	
Iodine Educational Bureau	Livestock and Poultry Supplement	
55 Jamieson Farm Equipment	Grain Cleaners, Elevators	Free Literature.
Jenkins Sales	Metal and Furniture Polish	
S. C. Johnson	Floor Polish	
56 Johnson Motors Ltd.	Chore-Horse Motors	Free Booklet.
Kellogg Co. Ltd.	All-Brans	
Kelly Douglas Co.	Tea	
57 Ketchum Mfg. Co.	Cattle and Poultry Breeders Supplies	Catalog.
Kirkland-Ferguson Labs.	Inventors Aids	
Knox Co.	Cystex, Mendaex, Nixoderm	
Kralinator Co.	Oil Filters and Cartridges	
Kjellander Grain Co.	Mustard and Stinkweed Seed Wanted and Farm Lands For Sale, Grain Elevators	
58 Kromhoff Turkey Farms	Turkeys	Price List.
Lallemand Refining Co.	Yeast Cakes	
59 Lanzette Products Ltd.	Superfluus Hair Remover	Free Booklet and Trial Offer.
60 Laurentian Agencies	Cyanogas Pest Exterminator	Free Literature.
61 Nilus Leclerc	Weaving Supplies	Free Catalog.
62 Lederle Labs. Ltd.	Livestock Remedies	Free Booklet.
63 Lejay Mfg. Co.	Arc Welders, Electric Freezer	Catalog.
F. F. LeMaistre	Architects' Plans	
A. O. Leonard	Cure for Deafness	
Lewis-Howe	"Nature's Remedy," Laxative	
Life Insurance Service	Life Insurance Service	
Lillooet Valley Estates Ltd.	Land for Sale	
Liquid Veneer Co.	Rat Exterminator	
Londonderry	Ice Cream Mix	
London Fur Co.	Trappers' Supplies	
64 Lo's Stone Works	Memorials	Free Catalog.
Love Flavors	Love Flavors	
W. Lucas	Skin Remedy	
W. C. MacDonald Co.	Tobacco	
65 McCabe Bros.	Livestock Supplements	Pamphlets.
66 McCleary Clinic	Pile, etc., Remedy	Free Book.
McColl Frontenac Oil Co.	Petroleum Products	
McFayden Seed Co.	Garden Seeds	
67 A. E. McKenzie Co.	Garden Seeds	Free Catalog.
68 McKenzie-Stephenson Co.	Leytosan	Free Literature.
E. W. McLean Sales Stables	Horses Wanted	
McMillan Fur & Wool Co. Ltd.	Wool Wanted	
Magiercrafts	Training for Magicians	
Man. Bag Co.	Cotton Bags	
Man. Bridge & Iron Works	Grain Elevator Equipment	
Man. R.O.P. Co-op. Hatchery	Baby Chicks	
Man. Stencil & Stamp Works	Cattle and Sheep Eartags	
Man. Winter Fair	Winter Fair	
Mantle Lamp Co.	Aladdin Lamps	
Marshall-Wells Co. Ltd.	Building Paper, Paint and Enamel	
Massey-Harris Co. Ltd.	Farm Machinery, Cream Separators	
J. L. Mathieu Co.	Cough and Cold Remedy, Headache Remedy	
69 M.C.C.	Correspondence High School and Civil Service Courses	Free Particulars.
Memba Peetin	Memba Seals and Pectin	
Mentholatum	Cold Remedy	
70 Mid-States Equipment Co.	Power Saw	Free Folder.
71 Miln Memorials	Monuments	Free Catalog.
72 E. S. Miller Hatchery	Baby Chicks	Free Catalog and Calendar
Minards Liniment Co.	Liniment	
Miner Rubber Co.	Rubber Footwear	
Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Co.	Farm Machinery	
Modern Handicraft	Needlework Magazine	
Moffatts Ltd.	"Electropall"	
73 Monarch Machinery Co.	Portable Grain Elevators, Grain Grinders	Free Particulars.
Monarch Overall Co.	"The Commodore" Overalls, Skippy Play Togs	
F. Morrell	Handwriting Analyzed	
74 Motor Coach Industries	Wagons	Free Price List.
75 J. H. Mufford & Sons	Baby Chicks	Booklet and Price List.
76 Mulveney's Remedies	Tapeworm Remedy	Free Particulars.
Mumford-Medland Ltd.	Engines	
Murline Co.	Eye Remedy	
Mutual Life of Canada	Life Insurance Service	
J. H. Munro	Furs Wanted	
National Barley Contest	Barley Contest Regulations	
77 Nat. Barley & Linseed Flax Com.	Flax Growing	Free Book.
National Musical Supply	Musical Supplies	
National Premium	Agents Wanted	Premium Offer.
National Pressure Cooker	Pressure Cookers	
79 National Turkey Institute	Turkey Raising	Free Information.
Nelson Farm Record	Farm Record Book	
Nicholson File Co.	Black Diamond Files	
80 North American Lubricating Co.	Lubricants	Free Catalog.
Northrop & Lyman	Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil	
81 North West School of Taxidermy	School of Taxidermy	Free Booklet.
Noxzema Chemical Co.	Skin Cream	
O'Cedar Co.	Furniture Polish	
Ogilvie Flour Mills	"Miracle" Poultry and Livestock Feeds; Flour	
Oliver Corp.	Farm Machinery	
A. Olsen	Hair Remedy	
82 D. W. Onan & Sons	Electric Plants	Free Folder.
Ont.-Min. Pulp & Paper Co.	Wood Workers Wanted	
83 Oshkosh Filter & Softener	Water Softeners	Information.
Osmose Wood Preserving Co.	Fence Post Preserver	
84 Ottawa Mfg. Co.	Wood, Log and Tractor Saws	Free Information.
85 Pacific Labs.	Asthma Remedy	Free Particulars.
86 E. R. Page Co.	Pile Remedy	Trial Offer.
Parkhill Bedding	Bedding, Davenport	
87 Pearson's Antiseptic	Creolin Disinfectant	Free Leaflet.
88 W. H. Perron & Co.	Garden Seeds	Free Catalog.
89 Perfection Milking Machines	Milking Machines	Free Information.
90 P. H. Livestock Conditioner Co.	Livestock Remedy	Names Satisfied Users.
Photo Research Labs.	Snapshot Enlargements	
Pine	Cough Mixture	
Plant Products	Weed Killer	

Continued from page 50

small investors, who are just as much entitled to a fair return for their investment as any other section of the community.

To understand the housing shortage one must look at the years before the war. In the 10 years between the slump of 1929 and the outbreak of the war, conditions were such that many people had to economize on their living space

and doubled up with friends or relatives. As soon as war production began families moved into better living quarters, empty houses were snapped up and in no time at all the demand for shelter exceeded the available supply. Things were made worse, of course, by the movement of several hundred thousand people from farms to towns and cities.

In the '30's few houses were built. In '28, a boom year, 50,000 houses were

constructed in this country. In 1933, by contrast, only 14,000 were built, and not many more were put up in the succeeding years. Even in 1939 the total climbed only to 32,000 housing units. Canada entered the war with a housing shortage which was met by the acceptance of discomfort by many families in congested shelter. The return of many thousands of veterans from overseas, the high marriage rate among them and the high birthrate in the postwar years have all gone to aggravate the problem. Essentially it is an urban one and need not concern us more here, except to say that the facts as set forth in this paragraph are the cause of the trouble, and not the incidence of control policy.

It would be quite unfair to permit the assumption that the demand for de-control is widespread throughout Canada. The public in this country has been well informed throughout the whole period of price stabilization, and has shown a great deal of restraint. Many business leaders whose narrow self-interest might have tempted them to denounce controls have loyally accepted a program designed for the general good. This statement is well illustrated by a symposium of business men's views recently published by the Financial Post.

From a farm standpoint it is as plain as a pikestaff that the cessation of controls would result, as it did in the United States, in rapid price increases in almost everything a farmer has to buy. As the price of what the Canadian farmer sells is for the most part determined by export price levels, which are not affected, the farmer's position would be quickly and seriously worsened.

The hope of business men lies in the early recovery of industrial production, so that the current high purchasing power of Canadians can be satisfied in a free market without a serious rise in retail prices. The hope of the general public, and particularly the farming section lies in a continuance of controls until that time is reached. The government statement made at the time wage and salary controls were discontinued indicated that policy would follow this course. There is, however, room for the widest difference of opinion as to the stage at which government regulation should cease and the normal interaction of supply and demand be allowed to determine prices.

The House of Commons meets at the end of the month and powerful forces will certainly be brought to bear to hasten the day of unrestricted trading. There is no consumers' lobby, so that the effective protests will have to come from the spokesmen of agriculture. The impending battle on this subject may provide some of the liveliest moments at Ottawa this winter.

CACTUS FOR THE WINDOW

Continued from page 32

garden loam and one part decomposed leaf mould to one part quite coarse sand or small gravel. Add a sprinkling of pea-sized charcoal to keep the soil open and "sweet." Have pieces of broken pottery, brick or stones in the bottom of the pot for good drainage.

As the hairy types are usually found growing on limestone formations, they require powdered eggshells or crushed mortar from old plaster walls added to the soil for lime. In summer they may be watered about as much as other house plants but give them a long rest in winter by keeping them somewhat dry and in a cool place away from frost. They will show their appreciation by vigorous growth in spring, followed by spectacularly conspicuous blossoms and fruit.

SHORTHORNS----- THE UNIVERSAL BREED

THINK of those market topping steers, of the extra dollars obtained through greater weight for age, and easy feeding qualities for which SHORTHORNS ARE FAMOUS.

BUY a SHORTHORN BULL

No bull can more profitably head your herd than a Shorthorn, his progeny will verify the fact that Shorthorn bulls are the **GREAT IMPROVERS**—a fact which has made the breed popular the world over.

For free literature—Write to either address.

CANADIAN SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION

Gummer Bldg. — Guelph, Ont.
— or —
503 Sunderland Ave., Calgary, Alta.



Take NR at night. Start the day regular. NR has thorough, pleasing action. Makes you feel better. Get NR in the regular strength, or NR Juniors (1/2 dose) if you only need extra-mild laxative.



RHEUMATISM

ARTHRITIS-NEURITIS-SCIATICA
If you suffer the agonizing pains of these diseases when the usual remedies have failed, learn about a new, trustworthy, modern, non-surgical treatment method. This marvelous treatment is completely explained in the Ball Clinic's FREE Book. Write today. No obligation.
Ball Clinic Dept. 539, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

ADVERTISER	PRODUCT ADVERTISED	OFFER TO READERS
91 Plymouth Cordage	Rope	Free Booklet.
S. Pott Publication	Photographers Magazine	
92 Prairie Elec. Hatchery	Baby Chicks	Free Calendar, Catalog.
Pratt Food Co.	Animal and Poultry Regulator, Hog Tonic.	Free Literature.
93 Prest-O-Lite Battery Co.	Batteries	
Power & Mine Supply Co.	Light Plants	
94 Pringle Electric Hatchery	Baby Chicks	Catalog and Record Book.
Publicitas	Home For French Children Wanted	
Pumps & Softeners	Water Pumps	
95 Quaker Oats Ltd.	Poultry Feeds	Free Book.
Radiators Ltd.	Radiator Repairs	
96 Ramsay Co.	Patents	Free Information.
97 Rapid Grip & Batten Ltd.	Name Plates and Letterheads, etc.	Information.
W. T. Rawleigh Co.	Dealers Wanted	
Ray-O-Vac (Canada) Ltd.	Flashlight Batteries	
98 Ray-Vite Labs.	Household Remedy	Free Book.
Reclamo Co.	Oil Filters	Literature.
Reckitt & Coleman	Dettol Antiseptic and Nugget Shoe Polish	
Lois Reader	Lonely Hearts Club	
Regina Exhibition Assn.	Exhibition	
Regina Hatcheries	Baby Chicks	
Reids Drug Store	Pile Remedy	
K. S. Reimer & Sons Ltd.	Window Mover	
100 Reliable Hatchery	Baby Chicks	Calendar, Catalog.
101 Rendells Ltd.	Feminine Hygiene	Free Booklet.
Renfrew Machinery Co.	Cream Separators	
102 Rennie Seed Co.	Garden Seeds	Free Catalog.
103 W. S. Rice Co.	Rupture Remedy	Information.
Robin Hood Flour Mills	Flour	
Arthur Rose Ltd.	Cleaners, Dyers	
104 Royal Bank	Banking Service	Free Booklet.
Royal Winter Fair	Winter Fair	
105 Rump & Sendall	Baby Chicks	Information.
St. Norbert Fruit Gardens	Strawberry and Raspberry Plants	
Safeway Stores	Grocery Store Institutional	
Salada Tea	Tea	
Sask. Dept. Agriculture	Swine For Sale, Frozen Food Locker Act.	
106 Saskatoon Feeder Show	Livestock Sale	Information
107 Sask. Cattle Breeders' Assn.	Cattle Sale	Catalog.
108 Sask. Feeder Show	Livestock Sale	Information
109 Sask. Sheep & Swine Sale	Sheep and Swine Sale	Catalog.
Savage Arms Corp.	22 Rifles	
A. Schrader's Son	Tire Valves, Cores and Caps	
110 N. Schuurman	Dutch Bulbs For Sale	Price List
Schwartz Iron & Metal Co.	Heaters	
Sherwin-Williams Ltd.	Paint, D.D.T. Insecticide	
Sifton Products	Spinning Supplies	
111 Silent Heat Oil Burner Co.	Oil Burners	Free Leaflet.
Silverman & Co.	Watch Repairs	
C. Simmons	Lonely Hearts Club	
Eddy Simoneau	Horse Tail Hair Wanted	
Simpson's Get Acquainted	Lonely Hearts Club	
112 Singer Sewing Machine	Sewing Machines	Information (specify).
D. Smith & Son	Heaters and Furnaces, Watering Troughs	
113 J. A. Smith Co.	Baby Chick Brooder	Information
114 Smith Mfg. Co.	Rupture Remedy	Free Information, Trial offer.
115 Soubry's Hatchery	Baby Chicks	Free Catalog.
116 Spencer Ltd.	Garden Seeds	Catalog.
Spohn Medical	Veterinary Remedy	
117 Spramotor Ltd.	Spraying Equipment	Free Catalog.
Specialty Mail Order Co.	Medicinal Herbs and Roots	
Standard Brands	Royal Yeast, Magic Baking Powder, Chase & Sanborn Coffee	
118 Standard Brands	Gillett's Lye	Free Booklet.
Standard Imptg. & Sales	Farm Equipment	
Standard Machine Works	Machine Repairs	
Standard Produce Co.	Dressed Poultry Wanted	
Stanfields Ltd.	Underwear	
119 Staze Corp.	False Teeth Fastener	Free Trial Offer.
120 Steele Briggs Ltd.	Garden Seeds	Free Catalog.
121 G. F. Stephens Co.	Paints	Free Book.
122 Stewart Electric Hatchery	Baby Chicks	Catalog and Price List.
Stewart-Warner-Alemite	Alemite Lubrication Equipment	
Studebaker Corp.	Automobile Company	
123 Super-Six Sales Co.	"Hydra-Lift"	Free Details.
Success Automatic Land Leveller Co. Ltd.	Soil Movers	
124 Success Commercial College	Business Training	Free Prospectus.
Sun Life Assur Co.	Life Insurance Service	
125 Taintor-Twomey	Garden Seeds	Trial Offer.
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Wm. R. Warner Co.	Sloans Liniment	
Washington Co-op. Chick Assn.	Turkey Poult	
J. R. Watkins	Dealers Wanted	
John Watson	Gloves	
Wawanesa Mutual Life Insur. Co.	Insurance Company Report	
133 Ed. Webb Seed Co.	Garden Seeds	Free Catalog.
West. Can. Subscription Agencies	Agents Wanted	
West. Clock Co.	Clocks	
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Western King Mfg. Co.	"Master Mechanic" Overalls	
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Willard Battery Co.	Batteries	
Wilson Fly Pad Co.	Fly Pads	
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Winnipeg Grain Exchange	Grain Marketing Regulations	
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FARM

	Page
1. Animal Breeding and Training—Free Booklet	14
2. Auto Repairs—Free Catalog	31
3. Baby Chicks—Free Information	26, 27, 28
4. Belts and Pulleys—Free Catalog	35
5. Cattle Breeders' Supplies—Free Catalog	31
6. Engines—Free Catalog	12
7. Farm Equipment—Free Catalog	14
8. xFarm Lands For Sale—Information (specify)	31
9. Farm Light Batteries—Free Details	29
10. Garden Seeds—Free Catalog	22, 23
11. Hog Supplement—Free Folder	16
12. Livestock Supplement—Free Information	14, 31
13. Log Saw—Free Book	41
14. Magnetos—Trade-in-Plan Details	24
15. Milking Machines—Free Catalog	16
16. Mowers, Garden Tractors, etc.—Catalog	31
17. Oil Filters—Free Literature	41
18. Poultry Brooders—Free Information	26
19. Cattle	53
20. Rope—Free Book	24, 41
21. Smut and Root Rot Remedy—Free Booklet	31
22. Tomato Seeds—Free Nursery Book	22
23. Tractors—Free Catalog	19
24. Tractor and Car Repairs—Free Information	24
25. Traps—Free Booklet	36
26. Veterinary Remedies—Free List	23
27. Websaw Files—Free Information	32

HOME

28. Blankets, etc.—Prices	47
29. Lye—Free Booklet	33

MISCELLANEOUS

30. Business Training—Free Information	31, 48
31. Detective Training—Information	23
32. High School Correspondence Courses—Free Information	41
33. Inventors Aids—Free Booklet, etc.	31
34. Memorials—Free Catalog	36, 47
35. Memorials—Information	53
36. Oil Burner—Free Leaflet	27
37. Patents—Information	36
38. Pile Remedy—Free Booklet	38
39. Rheumatism Remedy—Free Book	53
40. xRheumatism Remedy—Trial Offer (10c)	50
41. Rupture Remedy—Free Book	29
42. Rupture Remedy—Information and Trial Offer	41
43. School of Taxidermy—Free Book	50
44. Water Softeners—Free Book	23

GENERAL

Agents Wanted	21
Animal Diseases Control	14
Appeal For Aid to China	49
Appointment Announcement	29
Architects Plans	24
Asthma Remedy	47
Automobile Company	2
Baby Chicks	21, 26, 27
Baby Foods	44
Banking Service	20, 37
Banking Service—Report	39
Bedding	48
Bronchitis Remedy	50
"Buzz" Saw	22
Coffee	44
Cold Remedy	29, 35, 47, 48
Cough and Codd Remedy—Contest	41
Cough Medicine	48
Dyes	44
Enamels, Varnish, etc.	16
Exterminator—Rats	38
Farm Equipment	41
Farm Light Plants	24
Farm Machinery Company	18, 56
Farm Record Book	23
Female Remedy	48
Fence Post Preservative	24
Fertilizer	34
Fire Extinguishers	41
Flour	44
Grain Company	55
Grain Company—Dividend Notice	13
Grain Diseases Control	22
Headache Remedy	47
Home Freezers	32
Insecticide	35
Kidney Remedy	38
Lamps	24
Laxative	50, 53
Laxative—Children's	46
Life Insurance Service	40
Livestock Remedy	14
Livestock Supplement	17, 29
Livestock and Poultry Remedies	21
Lonely Hearts Club	27, 47
Machine Repairs	21
Mail Order House	47
Meat Curing Compound	47
Milking Machines	3, 21
Needlework Book	48
Oil Heaters	24
Plows	37
Post Hole Digger	22
Poultry Supplement	15, 20, 23, 27
Pumps	21
Radiator Repairs	29
Raw Furs Wanted	14
Rheumatic Pain Remedy	48
Rope	12
Rubber Heels and Soles	50
Skin Remedy	47, 50
Sore Throat Remedy	50
Tea	48
Tobacco	35
Tourist Information	23
Tractors	4
Trapping and Fur Farming Magazine	36
Turkeys	27
Valve Cores and Caps	34
Vaseline	47
Wood Preservative	22
Yeast	45

THE COUNTRY GUIDE, January, 1947
Winnipeg, Man.

From the items numbered I have selected the following in which I am interested in the literature, etc., offered.

Name.....

P.O.....

Prov.....

Numbers.....

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Between Ourselves



Two threshing outfits pouring grain into one granary. The outfits are those of Evo DeDecker and John Dusyk. Photo by courtesy of Arthur J. Boyer, Montmartre, Sask.

THE autumn of 1946 was the most unfavorable harvesting season ever experienced in some districts. Arthur J. Boyer, who provides us with the picture at the top of the page says that in his district threshing operations were at a standstill from September 17 to October 26. As a result, some of the farmers who had completed their threshing turned in to help the less fortunate. The DeDecker outfit, which had finished its normal threshing run the day before the picture was taken, moved kit and caboodle three miles over to the Dusyk farm and stayed there till all the grain was safely in the bin. Mr. Boyer states that in other districts where farms are larger than they are around Montmartre he has seen three threshing rigs running on one farm at the same time. From Miss Irene Heryford (will Miss Heryford write giving her address) we have pictures showing ten combines working in the same field. Incidents like these tempt one to remark that the spirit of neighborly co-operation which enabled the pioneers to get through some tough spots, is not altogether dead.

* * *

DAVID M. HOWIE, of Lac Magloire, Alta., has set down the following conversation he purports to have heard in the woods between a Great Horned Owl and a Log Cock. It runs as follows:

Owl:

My friend, you are crazy; your intelligence hazy;
You're as daft as birdie can be.
I swear by my song, if I'd not come along
You'd have bashed your brain out on that tree.

Woodpecker:

If you call that a song, my dear, you are wrong;
Even the crow can sing sweeter than you.
You are nought but an owl, you ridiculous fowl,
Who hoots to get into "Who's Who."

Owl:

To me it appears that the friendship of years
Away to the winds you have flung.
Vain was the hope, you wood eating dove,
I'd escape from the barbs of your tongue.

Woodpecker:

Why, I dine scientific on worms hieroglyphic,
And other such elegant fare!
Your diet's not nice, consisting of mice
And flesh of the varying hare.

Owl:

It was not my intention your habits to mention—
Though quite disgusting to me—
But you do go around like a stomach sick hound,
Or a human after a spree.

Mr. Howie regretfully records that from this point on it became impossible to record the verbal exchanges. The crack about resemblance to a human so enraged the woodpecker there was an

immediate fight, the woodpecker dealing sledge hammer blows that would have pierced the wooden walls of a war-time house, and the owl countering with vicious swipes from his scimitar beak. The last our chronicler saw of them the owl was high-tailing it through the bush with the log cock in hot pursuit.

* * *

IN a recent British broadcast W. Buchanan-Taylor gave away some of the secrets in the training of performing fleas. First, be it told, you catch the elusive flea, remembering that he holds the world's record for jumping. (It has been stated that if a man were equipped with spring heels of the same proportion to weight as the flea's, he could jump as high as the Peace Tower pictured on page 11). Having got your flea, and put him in a nice little pill box padded with cotton wool, you take him to a watchmaker. A watchmaker is suggested because it is extremely unlikely that you will find a professional flea harnesser in your locality, the craft being nearly extinct. If the watchmaker has a steady hand, he will put a very thin gold wire around the neck of the flea, leaving as spare, about an inch-and-a-half of the wire, which will be heavy enough to prevent the little fellow from jumping. As an example of what can be done, fleas have been dressed and undressed, harnessed to miniature vehicles, fought duels with swords, and indulged in boxing matches, performed exhibition rescues from supposedly burning miniature houses, balanced balls, and done ballet dancing and trick cycling.

* * *

AND speaking of the BBC, it is well known that the Englishman must have his cricket, and the BBC is now giving him a blow-by-blow account of the series of matches between teams representing England and Australia and played in the latter country. It will be realized that the games take place in the heat of an Australian summer, are transmitted across steaming equatorial jungle half way round the world to the Englishman crouched in front of a half starved coal grate long after sunset. The British radio engineers have done a tricky job of hooking up their transmission, the broadcast passing through a relaying station, Radio SEAC, set up by Lord Mountbatten for the benefit of the troops in the Burma campaign. These games correspond to the world's series in baseball, or the Stanley cup games which fill our ether with frenzy at the end of the ice hockey season. According to the English, they are playing "for the ashes." Now, lest you be misled by this reference, let it be said that there are no ashes. The saying arose from a mournful newspaper article which appeared in one of the English papers the first year the Australians beat England. The article declared that cricket in England was dead and that the ashes were being taken to Australia. A cup symbolizing "the ashes" follows the winners to their native country. When in England it is kept at the home of the Marylebone Cricket Club, London.

What's In This Issue

	Page
British Columbia Letter	3
Editorial	10
Under the Peace Tower	11

FEATURES

Wheat or Meat—By H. S. Fry	5
Scouting Around	7
Price Stabilization	9
News of Agriculture	12

FARM

Livestock	14
Field	18
Horticulture	22
Workshop	24
Poultry	26

HOME

The Countrywoman—By Amy J. Roe	43
Cactus For the Window—By G. F. Marriner	32
Mercy Flights	42
Gustards	44
Tasty Steaks—By Marion R. McKee	45
Vanity for Better Looks—By Loretta Miller	47
For the New Year	49

YOUTH

The Country Boy and Girl	51
--------------------------	----

FICTION

The Dallas Heart (serial—part II)—By George Ethelbert Walsh	6
Down the Desert Wind—By Christine Whiting Parmenter	8

JANUARY, 1947

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CONTENTS COPYRIGHTED

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